

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

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It is good news that the supplementary government documents bill, prepared by Mr. Crandall, has passed the House of Representatives, and is now before the Senate members of the joint committee on printing. There is a good prospect of the passage of the bill if it is reported by the committee, and librarians will do well to write promptly to Senator Eugene S. Hale, urging upon him a prompt and favorable report from his committee.

THE spoilsmen in politics have been so circumscribed by the progress of civil service reform in ordinary political relations, that they are forced to sorry tricks and devices in making the most of the pickings in fields still left to them. Unfortunately, one of the last ditches of the spoilsmen's fight proves to be that branch of administration in which there should be least of politics—the administration of state and municipal libraries. Several of the western states, notably Ohio, California, and Iowa, have been the victims of this mania, capable and efficient librarians having in these and in other instances been removed because they did not belong to the dominant party, or because their places were wanted for political or personal associates of those who were for the time being in control of the appointing power. Happily, largely at the initiative of the Ohio Library Association, Ohio has appointed a commission which will have charge of the state library and the appointment of the state librarian hereafter, and the name of Rutherford P. Hayes, pleasantly known throughout the library profession, not only as the son of the ex-president but as thoroughly and intelligently versed in library affairs, is evidence that hereafter the state librarian will not be displaced because he is not "a Foraker man" or a member of the dominant party.

THE storm-centre is for the moment shifted to the distant state of Washington, where a battle royal is waging with the new admin-

istration of the city of Tacoma, which has come into office under a new charter that, unfortunately, failed to provide for the continuance in office of the existing officials. Mr. William Curtis Taylor, a veteran in the library field, who combines the experience of years with the energy of youth in a remarkable manner, and who has done much for the City Library of Tacoma, was not *persona grata* with the new mayor, who had shown his appreciation of reform methods by appointing, we are told, a "two-chair barber" to the office of superintendent of city works. Mr. Taylor applied to the courts as against the mayor's action, and meantime literally held the fort by encamping in the municipal library day and night until, recently, he concluded to alter the plan of campaign and remove to the citadel of his own home, taking the library records with him. This incident has an amusing side, but it is nevertheless a most serious matter. Of course, it will not be long before an end will be put to all this, for the feeling of the people in behalf of civil service reform is surprising and triumphant, and they will not long tolerate political interference in library administration. The Pacific coast, however, has had too many examples of this sort, the latest being at Santa Rosa, where Miss Kumli has been deposed from office, apparently for political reasons, against the general protest of the teaching community, who have certified with remarkable unanimity to her value in connection with the general educational work of the place.

WE print elsewhere, in more detail than the importance of the investigation in itself demands, the report of the legislative committee on the State Library at Albany. As the charges against Mr. Dewey, although petty in themselves, were given wide newspaper notoriety, it seems only fair that the complete vindication and thorough-going testimonial of this legislative committee should be "spread upon the minutes" in the JOURNAL. Mr. Dewey has

been steadfast in opposition to the spoils system in library administration, and this, of course, has concentrated upon him the dislike of the spoilsmen. A legislative committee is not always friendly to progress in directions counter to its political interests, and this report has, therefore, the more significance. We trust it will have the result of stimulating other official librarians in maintaining the standard and lessen the chance of decapitation by the political axe.

THE attacks upon the Providence Public Library by Mr. Sidney S. Rider, who dearly loves a Don Quixote adventure, but prefers something more substantial than windmills as the object of his attacks, has incidentally been of service in calling attention to how little the uniform method of statistics devised by the A. L. A. so long ago as 1877 has been put into practice. The tempest in a teapot with which *Book Notes* has been boiling over has no significance in itself, but we print Mr. Foster's rejoinder, which would be scarcely considered necessary by those who know Mr. Foster and the fine work of the Providence Public Library—including, of course, the entire library profession—because it brings up usefully this question of comparative library statistics. It is never worth while in commercial business to let the business be run for the sake of the book-keeping, nor is it worth while to make statistics the chief aim of libraries. On the other hand, as great interests grow, it is found of growing importance, for purposes of actual money-saving, to keep careful and even elaborate statistics, and to make comparative use of these in relation to the statistics of other similar enterprises. Library statistics have on the whole been very thoroughly worked out in nearly all large libraries, but such figures have but part of their value when they are not made the subject of comparison. The A. L. A. did a wise thing at its very beginning when it mapped out forms of report which would make such comparison possible, and it is a curious oversight that in 20 years so little use has been made of these forms and so little attention has been called to the omission. With the experience of the past 20 years it is possible that these forms may be improved, and it is certainly to be hoped that at the Cleveland conference especial attention will be given to the desirability of comparative statistics on the basis originally adopted by the A. L. A., or

on such modified basis as may commend itself to the judgment of the conference.

THE view and plans of the Champaign Public Library, of which the corner-stone was laid last month, are presented in the JOURNAL, by courtesy of the architect, with a double purpose—for the information and interest of the library profession, and for the benefit of the people of Champaign. Mr. Schweinfurth, the architect, desires us to express his readiness to receive from librarians suggestions for any modifications of the interior plans which, in their judgment, may make the library when completed a better working library. This is a happy precedent on the part of the architect, for which we take the liberty of offering to him the thanks of the library profession by what we are sure would be a unanimous vote. There is still a tendency on the part of architects to magnify their profession by making beautiful buildings which are extremely inconvenient in their interior working; indeed, the Boston Public Library, the most notable achievement of library architecture in this country, has a number of defects in its working arrangements, and a chief value of the new Congressional Library building at Washington is the careful engineering work which has been done in making the building one in which the library can be administered to best advantage. We shall be prepared, to the fullest extent practicable, to present in advance in the JOURNAL the plans of proposed libraries, so that architects, librarians, and users alike may get the benefit of professional counsel before the plans of the libraries are crystallized into final and unalterable shape.

A NEW library periodical has been started by the Library Bureau, in addition to *Library Notes*, under the title of *Public Libraries*. The new periodical is to be issued from its Chicago office monthly, except during July and August, and it is intended to maintain it regularly and not to permit it to lapse into the desultory irregularity of *Library Notes*. It is editorially in charge of Miss Ahern, formerly librarian of the Indiana State Library, who is well and pleasantly known throughout the profession, and the president and other officers of the A. L. A. have lent to it the benefit of their names and support as associate editors. Whether the American library field is large enough and rich enough to support three library periodicals remains to be seen.

Communications.

SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAY.

In the LIBRARY JOURNAL for July, 1895, a request was made to other librarians for information in regard to Saturday half-holidays.

From the replies received, it is evident that the day is considered too busy to give any thought to half-holidays, particularly as such privilege would come in the summer when vacations are going on. Many libraries, however, shorten the hours during the hot months.

Mr. Bardwell reports that the Brooklyn Library has closed the delivery department at 2 p.m. on Saturdays during July and August for several years, the reading-room remaining open until 9 p.m. He says further: "In July and August we close the delivery department on other days than Saturday at 6:30 p.m. instead of 9 o'clock. This closing up evenings and the shorter hours mentioned is a great relief to us all, and does not interfere with the circulation of books. It only brings the business within narrower limits of time. In August we close the book delivery department from 12:30 to 3 p.m. The reading-room is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. throughout the summer months."

"We do not find any objection worth mentioning to this. Everybody can draw books, only within shorter hours, and books can be returned at the reading-room desk at all hours. The extra rest is very beneficial to the library force, for the evening duty in the hot season is more exhausting than the whole of the daytime."

Miss Hewins reports that at Hartford the attendants have one morning off each week. They are on duty in the reference-room one Sunday morning in seven and for this additional work get the following afternoon and evening off duty.

In the Otis Library, in Norwich, Ct., each member of the staff is allowed one afternoon each week. Mr. Crunden, of St. Louis, reports that one half day is allowed each month in the year except during the period when vacations are going on.

Miss Richardson, of New London, says: "Ever since the opening of our library in 1891 I have practised the plan" [of half-holidays].

"As we have less to do in the morning and as the afternoon is pleasanter to have for a holiday, I have alternated; those of my assistants who have a morning one week have the afternoon of the next, the afternoon being given on a day when the library is not open in the evening so that they can have the entire time from noon."

The experiment of the Saturday half-holiday was tried in Newark last summer during the months of July and August, and it was a complete success. It required merely the rearrangement of hours to have as many on duty as on any other day; and from only three attendants was it necessary to require any additional work. In this way the attendants gained a half day every other week. This was

made possible by the fact that the large stores closed on Saturday evening, and therefore the bulk of our work was lessened, or rather brought within narrower limits.

My own experience is that the assistants derived a great deal of benefit from this half-holiday and the public received just as satisfactory treatment.

Where practicable, I would advise a trial of the Saturday half-holiday during the summer months without closing the library.

FRANK P. HILL.

PUBLIC LIBRARY,
NEWARK, N. J.

PROPOSED REFORMS IN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

THE "First draft of a proposed bill to reduce the cost, increase the value, and simplify the methods of publication of the public documents furnished to designated depository libraries" sent out by Mr. F. A. Crandall, Superintendent of Documents, and summarized in the MARCH LIBRARY JOURNAL, is of the highest importance.

Mr. Crandall has found that two or three very simple changes in the method of publication will do away with very great evils. He suggests an excellent method of lettering in uniform style, and also that no document shall ever be published, as at present often happens, in two or more series with different titles, to the great waste of the public money and the great confusion of catalogers and librarians.

Moreover, he would abandon entirely binding in flimsy sheep and substitute a cheaper and stronger binding in the best of cloth. This change will save, he calculates, \$100,000 a year, and he suggests that part of this saving might hereafter be devoted to an increase in the number of depository libraries. Would that it might; but that alone is not enough. The money saved should be also applied to providing in some way for the free sending of any public document to any public library which shall apply to the superintendent of documents for it; using the term public library in its broadest sense. This is the only measure which will satisfy the reasonable wishes of libraries. There are many in all parts of the country which could never expect to be made "designated depositories," which indeed could not afford the shelf-room for the whole mass of the public documents of the United States, and yet have urgent need of some particular document or class of documents for the use of their readers. These libraries generally cannot afford to buy them. Nor is there any reason why such institutions as are willing to take the cost of cataloging and storing and serving the public with these documents, should be compelled to also pay for them. Congress orders documents printed and the country pays for the printing for this very purpose which the libraries are forwarding, that information may be made public. But the library should be allowed to make its selection. The document that a library wants enough to ask for it will do a hundred times more good than the document which it would rather not receive. Senators and representatives are always willing to furnish these documents

when they can, but many a librarian has found his representative's quota exhausted, and even when the representative puts himself to considerable trouble, as he usually does, to get the desired document from some other source, he is often unable to procure a copy for the library. There ought not to be any need of the intervention of senator or representative. The number of designated depositories ought to be much increased, to be sure, so as to include all the libraries that really desire a complete set of documents. But even more important than this increase, which would provide some libraries with a store of books that may be of use, is the measure I urge, which would provide many libraries with books that are sure to be of use.

I propose, therefore, that librarians submit to their governing boards a resolution endorsing strongly this draft of Mr. Crandall's, and add to the endorsement the expression of a wish that provision shall be made in some way for sending to all public libraries which are not "designated depositories" any public document hereafter published for which they may apply to the Superintendent of Documents.

CHARLES A. CUTLER.

FORBES LIBRARY, {
NORTHAMPTON, MASS. }

THE SELECTION OF "SELECT FICTION."

PERHAPS it may be interesting to some of the JOURNAL readers to know something of the mental processes of the Massachusetts Library Club select fiction committee in regard to a book much praised in the reviews but not included in the "List of select fiction." The book was read by three readers of the committee. All agreed that the story was interesting, but that the excessive profanity was a drawback. It was thought, however, that it gave a true picture of soldier life, and the committee decided to include it, with a note regarding the profanity. Before the list was printed a trustee of one of our Massachusetts libraries read the book. He had been in the army during the entire war, and had taken part in 40 pitched battles. With this experience on which to base a judgment he declined to purchase the book for the library, because it was not true to fact and because of the profanity. On the judgment of a man who seemed qualified, we dropped the book from the list. Who shall decide when doctors disagree?

The above statement is made, not because the committee has any doubt as to the wisdom of its action on this particular book, but to show the care with which it does its work and the difficulty in making a list that will be perfectly satisfactory to all.

NINA E. BROWNE,
Secretary of Committee.

[It is probable that many librarians have noted with surprise the omission of "The red badge of courage" from the Massachusetts Library Club Lists, and the foregoing explanation is therefore interesting, whether it be approved or not. — ED. L. J.]

THE GUTENBERG SEMI-MILLENNIAL.

AT the last meeting of the Michigan Library Association a resolution, presented by Mr. B. A. Finney, of the State University Library, was adopted, looking to the appropriate celebration in 1897 of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Johann Gutenberg. Subsequently, it appears, the authorities of Mainz changed their minds as to the proper date for such a celebration and reopened the question for further consideration. To obtain information Mr. Finney has corresponded with persons in Germany. Prof. Dziatzko, of Göttingen, says: "Nothing positive is known of the year in which Gutenberg was born and much less of his birthday. Both 1397 and 1398 are called the year of his birth, probably for the reason that his death occurred in the first part of 1468, or the last part of 1467, and he was then 70 years old. Probably the celebration will be with the century, so it is safe to say that it will take place in 1900. The magistrate of the city of Mainz, whom I asked in regard to this detail, was of the same opinion." Dr. Velke, of Mainz, writing in reply to the inquiry, says: "The question of date is still open. But it is certain that the celebration will not take place in 1897."

It may be gratifying to those who take any interest in the subject to learn the foregoing views.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, {
DETROIT, MICH. }

H. M. UTLEY.

FULL NAMES DESIRED.

IF the librarians who wrote papers for the World's Fair meeting of the A. L. A. — those of them who do not ordinarily spell out their middle names — will kindly send their full names as soon as possible to the undersigned, they will receive credit for their full names in the forthcoming catalog of documents of the Fifty-third Congress, and will confer a favor upon the compiler.

EDITH E. CLARKE.

OFFICE OF DOCUMENTS, {
WASHINGTON, D. C. }

SOFTENING BINDINGS.

"M. Q." inquires for a method of softening leather bindings. A little lard (very little) rubbed over leather bindings preserves the life of the leather. At least this is true of "sheep" and "roan," the only leathers on which the writer has seen it used; though there seems to be no reason why it should not be equally effective on other leathers used in binding.

S. H. RANCK.

KNOX PRATT FREE LIBRARY, {
BALTIMORE, MD. }

THE MANCHESTER (ENG.) FREE LIBRARIES.

IN the report of the Washington Library Association in your issue of April, 1896, the statement is made that the Free Libraries of Manchester have added to their reading-rooms, coffee taverns, smoking-rooms, chess and billiard rooms. As this statement may lead to a misapprehension, I write to say that these useful additions to a public library have as yet found their way into only one branch of the Manchester system.

MARGARET C. DYER.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE LIBRARIAN'S DUTY AS A CITIZEN.*

BY CHARLES KNOWLES BOLTON, *Librarian Brookline (Mass.) Public Library.*

It is the duty of every man to set apart some of his time and strength to be devoted to the welfare of the community in which he lives. To make this time and strength effective, he must work along the lines where his tastes and study have most fitted him to be of service. The librarian, therefore, has a wide field of usefulness more or less akin to the duties of his position.

Success here depends more upon character than upon training. It is not only what he knows, but how he approaches people and holds their respect. There is no better school for a man's character than contact with men, and no librarian can enter into the improvement of the social and intellectual life of the community without gaining strength himself.

I shall not begin by saying that a librarian should pay his taxes. He is sufficiently well looked after in that matter, even though his conscience no longer pricks him. But does he try to know people with whom he would not naturally associate? Does he call on them when he had rather call on his best friends? Does he think of their interests and their needs, as well as of those of his friends? Is his life a life of service, like that of the clergyman? If he is not willing to make it so, he is not in the spirit of the coming profession of a librarian. The ministry will ever be held most in honor for the sacrifice of self which it requires. The calling of a librarian, to attract high-minded men and women, must be second only to the ministry in its aims and standards.

The laborer, the foreigner, and the social leader are each of them his problems; the laborer to be approached by meeting the labor-leader of the town, the foreigner by learning his language, the social leader by coming to respect the value as well as the power of organized society. No man, whatever his profession or condition in life, should be content to live wholly within the confines of one social circle.

All classes may be won by a man or woman who is fond of children. If you are interested in the child for whom the poor man goes without a coat, or in one for whose schooling a wealthy father and mother delay for a month

their departure to the seashore, you will be welcomed by both families. Again, all classes are reached by the universal language of pictures — picture exhibitions and picture-books. Why should not every family have the privilege of borrowing for three months one of the Braun photographs of some European masterpiece? What an influence such a picture would have in the home!

But it is not enough to know faces and names. What subject does a man's face recall, and what group of friends? It is easy to belong to one group, but it is not easy to find a welcome in many groups. Let a knowledge of these neighborhood groups lead to an arrangement whereby one trip to the library may serve the wants of several families in remote quarters of the town. They themselves seldom take the initiative in these matters.

People of similar tastes are brought together into literary and scientific clubs. I know of no better way to make the library a centre for all classes than to have a room where these clubs may meet to carry on their discussions and to consult the books in the library which relate to their subject. At one of the new libraries they are to have a dark room for developing photographic plates. In another library, specimens used by the Natural History Club are kept in the trustees' room, and the club meetings are held there.

Whether smoking should be allowed in the men's room is a debatable question as yet, but our schools have already faced the problem of children's lunches, and are serving soups, milk, and sandwiches within the buildings. To have these lunch-counters under supervision and within shelter is a mark of an advancing civilization. The library should not be too far behind the schools in movements like this.

To know the people of his town the librarian must know the geography of his town. He should be familiar with every road, by-path, and variation of rock-formation within his jurisdiction if he is to know the conditions under which the applicant for a borrower's card lives. He should know every public improvement in the city, every member of the city council, every policeman, every letter-carrier, and every tradesman in the neighborhood. A librarian who will not go to the people cannot

*An address read before the Pennsylvania Library Club at Philadelphia, April 13, 1896.

expect the people to come to him. He may meet them through their children, he may meet them through their language, their trades, or their hobbies; but meet them outside of the library he must, if his influence as a citizen is to grow.

One way to make friends is to respect the hobbies of others. As we become older we realize that men with well-regulated hobbies succeed in life. I take the following story from a recent library bulletin: "A visitor at one of our public insane asylums was particularly impressed with the case of a patient who came riding up on a broomstick, and stopped just long enough to ask the question, 'Do you know the difference between riding a horse and riding a hobby?' A negative answer elicited the reply, 'When you are riding a horse you can stop; but when you are riding a hobby you must keep going.' And slashing his broomstick with an imaginary whip the rider of the hobby vanished at full speed."

One librarian writes me that her poor are too poor for the luxury of a hobby, and the rest ride bicycles. I doubt if any one is too poor to afford a small hobby. And as bicycling is the fashion, an alcove of bicycle lore and literature would be of interest. A good bibliography on the subject would add to the value of some library bulletin. Do you try to put the man with a hobby in communication with an authority on the subject? Some of the pleasantest friendships in life are between people who never meet, but are led into correspondence by a similarity of tastes.

I cannot agree with those who think the library is only for the study of literature. If a citizen of the town can earn money by answering genealogical questions I think he should be given every help possible. The inventor, too, should be assisted in his researches. Librarians whom I know have assisted in identifying hall-marks on silver, in directing a lady to a nerve-food firm in England, in preparing a speech for a boy to deliver to the parish priest in behalf of the Sunday-school, and in getting up tableaux for charity. Nothing broadens one's knowledge and stimulates one's activities like the answering of questions. A librarian who gives up his "information-desk" entirely to an assistant loses much of his hold upon the public, and sacrifices the best opportunity for that self-improvement which must be the forerunner of better work on the part of the librarian himself.

How far one's strength will allow one to join local clubs and associations is a personal matter. The need of this is obviated in many cases by opening the library for meetings. One librarian writes me that she contributes funds. Some would find it easier, in spite of long hours, to contribute strength rather than funds.

An interesting club described by a Massachusetts librarian is a Woman's Club for travel by means of books and pictures. If the stories of adventure and shipwreck by Robert Louis Stevenson and W. Clark Russell have come from beds of pain, what could not an ingenious librarian do for such a club? He could take its members to the North Pole without waiting to float across it. He could take them to the South Seas without fear of being devoured by the natives. He could even go to Siberia, the most dangerous place in the world for one who has our inquiring habits.

But I must pass on to another subject: the librarian's part in the local problems of administration, trade, religion, etc. Here he is dealing with different classes differentiated by material conditions, education, and opinion. To be of service to all without assuming what some one has called "the missionary attitude" is no easy task.

Every city or town has its burning questions from time to time: Greek in the schools, or rapid transit, or municipal reform, or better roads. The great problem in America to-day is not the silver question, nor the tariff question. It is the reform of our city system of government. I am not sure but that every public library should have a department for the collection of books and reports on all the allied subjects of streets, lighting, police, taxation, representation, etc. These should be open to public inspection at all times, and the teachers and parents, as well as the librarian, should emphasize the importance of the subject of government reform. The saying that those who govern never read the books on government shows what a field is open to the influence of the librarian.

Where there is a local industry like the making of chairs, shoes, hats, and the like, there are always a few men who are anxious to rise in their trade. These men appreciate technical books which give them a grasp of the whole subject, instead of the particular part which their training has fitted them for. To have helped one such man to a higher plane of life

and activity is to have added honor to the profession which we represent.

If there is a club of young men, their secretary might collect the library cards of the members and select from the library each week or two weeks an interesting book on each card. These books, standing on a shelf in the club-room, would serve the purpose of a home or branch library.

The town-meeting and the town-supported church have, through changed conditions, lost much of their value as local centres. Something must come to supply this need of a place where all may gather. The question now meets every librarian: Shall I strive to make the public library this centre? Or shall I leave that work to the saloon, the club, or the blacksmith's shop, until another movement more public-spirited, more comprehensive, and more wisely administered sweeps the country and leaves the public library system in the ranks of the petty charities? We who live to-day have it in our power to make the public library the great exponent of modern civilization, the best bulwark of social order and stability. To do it we must make progress. We must build our libraries with reference to these needs. The librarian of the next century will have no right to say: "Our library cannot be a social centre because we have no conversation-room, because we have no open fireplace, no lecture-room, no lunch-room, nothing but a place for the storage of books." Subscription libraries have receptions and serve chocolate. Why? To make the library popular and bring readers. Are we to say: The public library supported by the town will not fail to pay its salaries, therefore we will not have receptions to bring in new readers? These "Library days" when the public are specially invited, promise to be a feature in public libraries in the future. There will be an exhibition of some kind to interest visitors. The various devices of the library will be exhibited and explained by the attendants. The trustees, the librarian, and a committee representing the various social strata of the town will be ready to welcome and entertain the citizens. Subscription libraries are centrally located. Do we consider this in choosing a site for our public library? I am told by some librarians that young people carry on flirtations within sight of Horace's poems and Lord Chesterfield's letters. If we were to agree that these youthful follies should be restricted to the town-meeting galleries or to the

back pews of the village church, all the librarians in America could not stop two young people from falling in love; and I maintain that if they persist in the practice, the public library is the best place for them to choose for their trysts. Any institution which ignores life must in time succumb to the inroads of decay.

If there is a dignity about books and learning, there is something more: there is life, humor, and love. Pitt was no less a great man because the foreign ambassador found him on his hands and knees with his children astride his back. If the ambassador thought the less of Pitt, whose was the fault? The dignity which a library acquires from the stamped calf covers of the books is so thin that it may easily be shocked. But the respect which it may acquire by bringing happiness to the people will endure.

In what I have said I have, I hope, implied an interest on the librarian's part in the educational movements of the town. When the work of the schools touches local history and local problems, it becomes particularly interesting. In my own town of Brookline, a citizen offers each year prizes for the best essays showing original investigation in local history. I quote here from an article in the *New England Magazine*:

"Some of us wondered how these historical essays of the scholars could be printed, both for safe-keeping and for the benefit of other towns. . . .

"At last the following prospectus was drawn up and printed:

"*The Brookline Historical Publication Society.*

"The Brookline Historical Publication Society is organized to collect and print in a uniform series such manuscripts and material not readily accessible as shall seem worthy of permanent preservation.

"There shall be a Publication Committee of three to decide upon all matters suggested by the aims of the Society.

"The object of membership is to provide funds to carry on the work of the Society, and each subscriber of the annual fee of one dollar (\$1.00) will receive free all publications of the Society.

MISS ——— Treas.

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Standing Publication Committee,

"N. B. Subscriptions may be sent at once to the Treasurer at the Public Library.

"It may be noted that there are no officers, no elections, no meetings, and no rules. What has been the result? Subscriptions have come in so rapidly that we shall print during the first

year four 'publications' besides the prize essay which alone it was our first intention to issue. Those already printed are: A letter written in 1810 by Rebecca Boylston to her uncle, telling of changes in the town, and of her engagement; the 'Sharp family papers,' and 'Brookline in the Revolution.' The church records, the graveyard inscriptions and collections of wills, deeds, etc., will follow.

"Every town has its letters and its diaries which should be preserved. One lady whom I approached for papers declared that she had nothing of value. After some patient questioning I secured a package of deeds and wills; of these, 13 were dated prior to the year 1700, one of them only 30 years after the coming of the *Mayflower*. The autographs of Governors Shirley, Bellingham, and Dudley gave them the dignity of history.

"Our society was started with an outlay of about \$6 for circulars and envelopes, besides 600 one-cent stamps. Each publication of eight pages costs \$10 for 300 copies, and a dollar for each 100 copies extra. A bookseller assures us that when we have enough numbers to make a volume, with title-page and index, he will be able to add to our treasury by further sales.

"The result, and to some extent the aim, of intensifying the interest of young people through giving their work a local application, has been an awakening of parents. To secure their more active co-operation with teachers,

and to unite every interest which could increase the intellectual activity of the community, the superintendent of schools initiated the movement which has resulted in the formation of the Brookline Education Society, with its 500 members. Already the possibility of a common meeting-ground has been found of immense advantage for a better understanding of aims and standards, as well as for the discussion of such questions as proper hygienic conditions, recreation, and sleep, with the parents themselves."

A society like this should find in the librarian a hearty supporter.

The librarian who is trying to make his library an intellectual centre must himself be doing the work of a good citizen. For he cannot attain to these ends unless he becomes a part of the intellectual and social life around him. The whole subject has been summed up by another in these words:

"I try first that no person coming to the library or to myself for sympathy or aid shall go away disappointed." If the librarian is known as a person who values the friendship of every one, and makes his library the one place that is always open and always ready to help, he has an influence to be guarded and prized and used for the good of the community. Then only is he worthy of the profession of a librarian, then only is he a representative American citizen.

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

By WILLIAM R. CUTTER, *Librarian Woburn (Mass.) Public Library.*

THAT there is an increase on the part of patrons in research of a genealogical character in public libraries is evident from the testimony of librarians of many of the larger centres of population in the older states of the Union. It is accounted for largely by the formation of patriotic hereditary societies, the membership of which is composed of persons anxious to trace their descent from some ancestor who had performed military service in the Revolutionary war, or in the still earlier wars of the colonies. To trace this descent is, in many instances, far from being an easy matter, and the seeker for information is obliged to work hard and long to secure the desired data. Besides, this information is often important in deciding questions of inheritance, and genealogy is oftentimes useful in tracing the titles of real estate, to say nothing

of the questions asked by the writers of the works called family histories, a class of persons to be found in all sections of the country. Thus in all the older towns and cities of the United States, where historical societies are not actively established, there is some one person who is expected to be "posted" on subjects relating to these matters, which are far more extensive than one unacquainted with the amount expected to be known would suppose. From recent evidence the person now whom the public expect to be the best informed on matters of local genealogy would appear to be the public librarian, and, in many places, as I have before said, he is the one applied to for the purpose.

Of course, he must supply himself, so far as the library resources will admit, with all the general books and local family histories that he

can gather. He must have all the volumes of printed records of all kinds that belong to his particular locality, and even of towns and cities reasonably remote from his own. These of themselves are a welcome aid to the patron. Newspaper volumes, too, are of especial value, for no public library, however small, should be without the bound volumes of the local newspapers from the first issue. It is supposed that this is generally understood.

It is true also that the archives of the state are the most usual depository of rolls and documents relating to active military service, but many towns in Massachusetts have preserved documents of great importance in determining military records of individuals. In the case of Woburn 975 of these contemporary documents have been preserved, and are now filed in document boxes in the public library. These documents embrace receipts, town orders, or orders drawn on the treasurer, with the autograph of the payee, rolls, reports to the town, fragments of company records, certificates, and a large number of other documents relating to the subject. These papers have already been indexed in a general manner,* but have been re-indexed much more thoroughly, and all their contents carefully taken note of. All the facts regarding an individual are written on catalog cards and arranged alphabetically under surnames, and then by Christian names under the surnames, after the manner of arrangement common to libraries.

Regarding each individual, I have endeavored to give all the facts possible. As the records of births, marriages, and deaths in Woburn are all in print to a very recent date, the year of birth and death is considered sufficient for my purpose. The epitaphs in the oldest burying-grounds being also preserved in print, reference by yard and number is made to them, so that the grave may be found for purposes of decoration. Items from contemporary diaries are given regarding dates of funerals, and other personal items. Abstract of probate on estate and other data from wills and tax lists are also presented with the military record.

I here submit a specimen record as a sample: BROOKS, Zachariah, b. 1742, d. 1792 (49y.) epitaph 274, 1st yard.

Lieut. Town order acct. military service, March 20, 1777. — 4.319 [reference to paper in collection]. Receipts for money to hire

soldiers for Continental Army, 1777, 1778, see Index to Wyman MSS., p. 16. He was in the French War — see Lewis & Co.'s *Middlesex County*, I. 389, 396, 398. Lieut. 1776-92. Lieut. Wyman's company [local militia]: 8 mos., 1.0.0 [£, s., d.]; 5 mos., Ticonderoga, 12.0.0 [probably money contributed]; total, 13.0.0, before 1777. This was his militia assignment. Hired by Capt. Belknap. — 4.488. Bounty for 24 men. — 4.488.

Fox's company, 19 April, 1775, that marched from Woburn to Concord and thence to Cambridge. Term of service 21 days at that time. — *Mass. Archives*, 12:70.

1st lieutenant 6th Massachusetts regt., January 1, 1777; cashiered, April 27, 1778. — Heitman, *Historical Register*.

Zachariah Brooks, age 17, was impressed from Woburn for Col. Eleazer Tyng's regt., March 27, 1759. A large portion of the men then impressed had been out formerly to Lake George. By Isaac Snow, receipt for military service, March 20, 1762, in expedition against Canada in 1759, where he "tarried all winter." Lieut. Zac. Brooks marched to Cambridge, with the Woburn soldiers who marched, Oct. 31, 1786, at time of the Shays' insurrection.

Taxed East List, 1775 to 1783, inclusive.

Gent., intestate; Joseph Brown, admr.; acct. allowed Nov. 6, 1794. Estate represented insolvent. Court orders admr. to pay certain % of creditors' claims. Admrs. aft. of sale, Nov. 6, 1794. Inventory dated Sept. 16, 1793; another, June 11, 1793.

For published genealogy, see *New England Hist. Gen. Register*, 1875, p. 156.

It will be observed that the defects as well as the merits of a man's record appear in this manner of presentation.

All that it is necessary for me further to do is to send a copy of this record to my correspondent.

The process is the same for individuals who served in the wars of the colonial period, recalling the fact that calls for their records are less frequent. The records of the colonial period show plenty of material, but are more difficult to treat genealogically, yet, with effort, satisfactory results may be obtained. The state archives furnish the principal matter, but still in less public hands are many documents worthy to be considered in completing the record.

* See LIBRARY JOURNAL, Oct., 1892, p. 480.

THE PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND BOOK NOTES.

THE two choice extracts from *Book Notes* in the April LIBRARY JOURNAL (21: 163), though good, so far as they go, are hardly sufficient to satisfy readers of the JOURNAL. The lack in library literature, up to the present time, of anything answering very nearly to the description, "A comedy of errors," is so well supplied by these three articles in *Book Notes* of March 7, March 21, and April 4, 1896, that I am not so selfish as not to wish to share my appreciation of them with my fellow-librarians. There is, perhaps, space for only the following good things:

(1) In the first of the *Book Notes* articles referred to, readers are requested to "consult the official reports of this library," and thereby discover that the fiction percentage in 1894 was "75 per cent.," and yet, on complying with the request, they find it not "75," but "59.72."

(2) A fortnight later, after withdrawing the above statement, the same playful writer sends his readers again to the annual reports to observe that this library, in printing classification statistics, "prevents a comparison of itself with libraries throughout the country"; when, again, to their surprise, the readers find that the reports of this library go so far in the direction of *facilitating* such a comparison as to print these statistics of circulation in two other forms of classification beside its own.

(3) In one place (as already quoted in the LIBRARY JOURNAL), "three-quarters of all the books taken" are characterized by the writer in *Book Notes* not merely as "fiction," but as the "thoroughly vicious" variety of fiction. This characterization, perhaps, was not advanced with any very substantial expectation of being accepted by any reader. Certainly those of the librarian's fellow-craftsmen who remember the surprise expressed by them at learning of this library's somewhat severe taste in fiction (ruling out not merely the positively "vicious," but the merely negatively "unworthy," such as the types represented by Mrs. Southworth, Horatio Alger, and E. P. Roe, respectively) would be likely to receive this characterization with inextinguishable laughter.

(4) Again, one is sent to the printed report to observe that ".68+" is the "percentage of the Fiction class in 1894." The reader finds, however, that ".68+" is the percentage of "Total, Literary classes," and gains not merely a wholly new conception of "fiction" as including "Essays" and "Periodicals, literary," as well as poetry (these having separate entries under the general heading); but also the even more unfamiliar conception of the "disgrace of the readers" attaching to their use of poetry and essays. In the bewilderment resulting from an attempt to readjust our ideas of what is and is not desirable, the discovery (by comparison of our own with other library reports) that another assertion

of *Book Notes* is not well founded, in characterizing the fiction percentage of this library as the reverse of being "smaller here than elsewhere," hardly produces the satisfaction which might be expected.

(5) But this incomparable humorist shows us that he can surpass the level of this last achievement, incredible as it may seem. In the latest of the three articles, while giving more space to the Boston Public Library than to this library, the writer finds this library "incomparably superior," in the fact that, "setting aside the reading-room use," the annual cost for every book "actually circulated" is less in Providence than in Boston. A librarian who is congratulated on the basis of a distinction so remote from his wishes or his ideals of what a library should aim at, must feel very much as a Japanese might if congratulated on being so thorough a Chinaman. Rightly or not, the development of the reading-room use, and of reference work in general, is the very thing which has appealed most strongly to the interest of those in charge of this library; and they find such a basis of comparison as this the hardest of all to conceive of or to understand.

But in truth was it ever intended by the writer that any one should take these novel ideas seriously? As the writer is an intelligent man — few men more so — one must believe that he has appreciated their humorous bearing as thoroughly as any one. Indeed, it is a significant fact in this connection, that in the new and startling interpretation of the scope of fiction proposed by him (as including "Periodicals, literary"), his own publication is classed as fictitious literature; and here is perhaps the key to an understanding of the whole.

Let me return for a moment to the suggestion (above referred to) that a common basis of comparison with other libraries was "prevented," in the classification statistics of this library. The members of the library committee, as well as the librarian, on looking into the matter, found themselves greatly surprised at the result — namely, that they seem to be alone in the use of such a "common basis." It is now, perhaps, a matter of ancient history, but any librarian, on examining his files of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, will find (v. 1, p. 431) that a scheme of "Library statistics" (including classification of circulation) was presented, in 1877, by a committee of the American Library Association; and he will also find (v. 2, p. 38), that "the circulation table was, on motion, adopted, as recommended by the committee," at the 1877 meeting of the American Library Association. It is this scheme, with slight verbal modifications, which this library has ever since reprinted year after year in its reports, translating the figures from its own classification into terms of this "A. L. A." classification, for the purpose of supplying a common basis for comparison; but, on a somewhat careful search through the latest reports of other libraries received by us, I cannot discover that any other library is doing this. Two public libraries —

those of Newton, Mass., and Dover, N. H., respectively *—apparently have no other classification than this one (as printed in the first volume of the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*); but if there are any other libraries where it is used (either "primarily" or "secondarily"), I shall consider it a great favor to be informed of it. After the first surprise was over, however, at finding this library apparently unique in inviting comparison, instead of equally unique in "preventing" it, the members of the library committee asked the very natural question why this early suggestion of 1877 had not been acted on by libraries generally. This is an inquiry which I pass on to the readers of the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, merely adding that there would seem to be very obvious advantages in employing such "a common denominator," as a basis for universal comparison.

Reference has already been made to the fact that, on comparing the fiction percentage of this library with that of other public libraries, it was found to be by no means high in our case. Indeed, to quote from the March number of the *Monthly Bulletin*, "according to a tabulation, based on the printed reports of other libraries, in the report of this library for 1895 (now in press)," only four public libraries, out of a total of 40 which print their fiction percentages, show a smaller one. I wish, however, to emphasize the statement—as made in the report referred to—that "the showing is here made, not because a low fiction percentage is or is not good in itself, but to satisfy a justifiable inquiry as to what the facts are in the case of this library." It should be added, also, that (as there stated), if the libraries included in the list were to be rearranged either on the basis of their total number of volumes, or their total circulation (both of these items being entered in this tabulation, as well as the fiction percentage), "the relative position of this library in the list would show large advantages in favor of the others." I trust, therefore, that other libraries, on receiving this report, will appreciate the fact that no invidious motive underlies the comparison referred to.

WILLIAM E. FOSTER.

THE PUBLIC DOCUMENT REFORM BILL.

THE bill to reform present methods of printing public documents, drawn by Mr. F. A. Crandall, superintendent of documents, passed the House of Representatives on May 7 without an opposing vote. Great credit for this result is due to Hon. George D. Perkins, of Iowa, chairman, on the part of the House, of the joint committee on printing, who was chiefly instrumental in its passage. The bill is now in the hands of the Senate half of the joint committee on printing (Senators Hale, Hansbrough, and Gorman), and there is little doubt that if it is reported promptly, it will pass before the close of the present session.

* In each case, with slight modifications in matters of detail. A third public library—that of Pawtucket, R. I.—while employing this "A. L. A." classification for its daily use, does not print it, but in its annual report translates its statistics into the "Rhode Island Board of Education" classification, printing that only.

THE BURNHAM ATHENÆUM, CHAMPAIGN, ILL.

MR. A. C. Burnham, of Champaign, Ill., in the spring of 1895 gave to the city of Champaign, Ill., \$35,000 with which to build a free public library, to be known as "The Burnham Athenæum." The building committee, of which Mr. R. D. Burnham, of Champaign, is chairman, organized last winter, and held a competition for the plans, which was participated in by some 50 architects from all parts of the country, many from Chicago. The plans of J. A. Schweinfurth, of Boston, were chosen, and the building is now being built after his design and under his superintendence. It will be finished early in the fall. The architect has endeavored to carry out as many of the suggestions of librarians generally as he could, consistently with the scope and cost of the building. The building contract was signed for an amount well within the architect's estimates—and the building will cost, furnished and equipped, not more than \$35,000, including the architect's commission of 5%.

It will be noticed that the librarian, standing at the delivery-desk, has complete control of all the rooms, including the private reading or reception room, the entrances to toilet-rooms, the stairways to the second floor, etc., so that the cost for attendants is reduced to a minimum. Directly behind this desk is the entrance, by tinned door, into a practically fireproof book-stack room. The unpacking-room in basement is under the rear end of this room and communicating with it by stairs, and has a little elevator for books from basement to first floor. All the screens in the first floor are glazed at a convenient height, so that the librarian can easily command the public in all the rooms. At the end of the main reading-room is designed to stand a memorial terra-cotta mantel of monumental character—perhaps with bas-relief medallion portrait of the donor of the building.

There is plenty of opportunity for embellishments of stained-glass windows, etc., in the numerous toplights, the main stairway window, etc., and it will be seen that the windows are ample for lighting, while not detracting from the breadth of the outside effect. There is in the construction of the building, which is on the so-called "open mill" plan, an absence of furred-in or enclosed spaces to invite ready combustion. The plastering is directly on the inner brick walls without wooden laths or wooden furrings, and the heat and vent flues are of terra-cotta. The exterior walls of brick all have a 2-inch air-space to keep out moisture. The interior finish is in sycamore natural or stained. The ceilings throughout are in sycamore veneered beams and matched ceiling boards, the walls in rough cast plaster painted in subdued tints in oil color, so that they can readily be cleaned. The building is to be lighted by gas and by electricity, heated by indirect steam throughout and ventilated in the so-called gravity system.

The second floor contains a large room to be

used for small entertainments, collections of art work, etc., ante-rooms, and committee-rooms. The exterior walls are faced with creamy white Powhattan bricks made in Richmond, Va., and with trimmings of Perth Amboy Co.'s terra-cotta of about the same tone as the bricks, all laid in creamy white mortar, and the roof is of light green slates.

In addition to the gift for the building itself, Mr. Burnham presented to the library a memorial fund of \$10,000, the income of which is to be used for the purchase of books, each book so bought to be marked as "purchased by the Julia F. Burnham Memorial Fund."

The corner-stone of the building was laid on April 9, with appropriate ceremonies. The audience gathered in the First Methodist Church, where addresses were made by B. C. Beach, president of the library board, Rev. C. N. Wilder, and President Draper, of the University of Illinois. Mr. Beach traced the history of the library association from its inception, as conducted and supported by public-spirited citizens, until the passage of the state library law allowed its transfer to and support by the city. After the addresses the assembly adjourned to the site of the new building, where the corner-stone was set in place and the usual collection of documents, papers, etc., placed in it.

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FOR LIBRARIES.

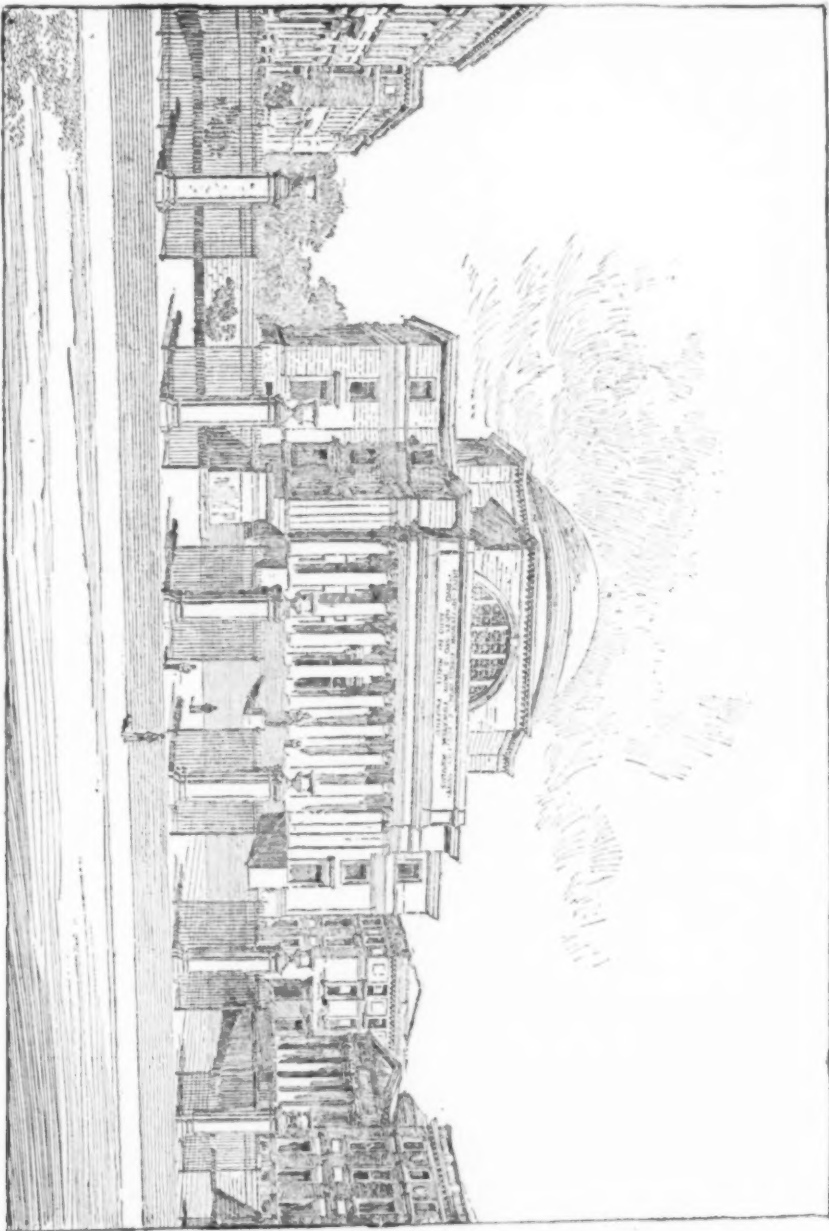
In the *Critic* for April 25 there appears a letter from S. L. Clemens ("Mark Twain"), now in India, in which he repeats the offer of the Maharajah of Jeypore to present copies of the first six parts of the "Jeypore portfolio of architectural details" to public institutions of learning which apply for it and are willing to defray cost of packing and carriage, which, from India to London, is given as Rs. 1-8, or about 42 cents. These drawings were all made under the superintendence of Colonel S. S. Jacob, engineer to the Jeypore State, Rajputana. The actual labor was performed by young natives in the schools of art, and accuracy in the sculptured adornments of tombs and mosques was secured by peculiar means. Sheets of soft, wet India paper were beaten into the sculptures with a brush, and when dry were found to retain the shapes of the originals. These impressions were transferred to smooth paper and reduced by photography to the size desired.

The collection includes about 440 plates, all carefully done to scale and arranged together in parts, each sheet loose, so that the different examples of architectural details may be readily compared by the student; there are 374 plates in the first six parts. The gift is made "to any public institution that applies for it for bona fide public use." Applications may be made to Superintending Engineer, Jeypore State, Rajputana, or to W. Griggs & Sons, Elm House, Hanover street, Rye lane, Peckham, England, and Mr. Clemens suggests that with any application should go a courteous word of acknowledgment to the Maharajah.

DEDICATION OF THE NEW COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

On Saturday, May 2, occurred the public dedication of the new site of Columbia University, on Morningside Heights, near Riverside Park, New York. The occasion was one of general public interest, and the ceremonies were notable and impressive. The grounds were profusely decorated with bunting, the national colors and Columbia's blue and white pennants predominating, and some 4000 guests were assembled in a large tent raised in the south court, while thousands of spectators surrounded the site. In the morning the corner-stones of the Physics building and Schermerhorn Hall were laid, the Rev. Drs. Marvin R. Vincent and Morgan Dix officiating as chaplains, and addresses being made by Dr. J. Howard Van Amringe, dean of the college, and Dr. H. F. Osborn, professor of zoölogy. These ceremonies, however, were semi-private, only the faculty, officers, alumni, and invited guests attending. The real celebration took place in the afternoon, when the grounds were thronged with an enthusiastic audience. The afternoon exercises opened with a procession of the faculties, officers, alumni, invited guests, and undergraduates to the places assigned to them. Rev. E. B. Coe then opened the proceedings with prayer, and President Low followed with a brief address on the new future opening before the university. Then came the presentation of the national colors to the university by Lafayette Post, with a short speech by Rear Admiral R. W. Meade, and the singing of the dedication ode written for the occasion by Prof. H. T. Peck, of the university. The address of the day was then delivered by Abram S. Hewitt, who traced the history of the college from its foundation in 1754, emphasized the influence it had exerted and should in the future exert upon civic and educational life in New York, and spoke of the great career now opening before it in its new and magnificent surroundings. A short address by President C. W. Eliot, of Harvard University, and the benediction by Bishop Potter concluded the ceremonies. The list of invited guests included most of the prominent citizens of New York, while among those present were the governor, Mayor Strong, President Brown, of Lehigh University, Gen. E. A. McAlpin, and Speaker Hamilton Fish.

The new site, on the crest of the hill where formerly stood the old Bloomingdale Asylum, is one of the most beautiful in the city, and brings the university among the group of beautiful new buildings, among them St. Luke's Hospital, the Teachers' College, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, that have been erected or are now rising on Morningside Heights. The site itself and the plans for the central building — the library — have already been fully described in these columns (L. J. 19: 379-380). Work is progressing rapidly on the library building, while the foundations of the Schermerhorn building, College hall, the Engineering building, and the Chemical building are well under way.



LIBRARY BUILDING, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY.

THE report of the legislative committee recently appointed to investigate the various state departments at Albany, N. Y., is given below, so far as it relates to the charges brought against Melvil Dewey, secretary of the board of regents and librarian of the state library. The report also considers at some length the charges brought by Mr. Dewey against Dr. James Hall, state geologist, who is fully and completely exonerated of any misuse of his official position.

Report of sub-committee of the joint committee of the senate and assembly appointed to investigate the state departments, etc.

To the Legislature:

The sub-committee of the joint committee of the senate and assembly to investigate the departments, boards, and commissions of the state government, to wit: The office of the secretary of state, office of the treasurer, office of the state board of charities, of different institutions under the supervision of the said board; office of the regents of the university, the salt springs of Syracuse, Niagara reservation, state museum, the civil service of the state of New York, and Fire Island quarantine station, created by resolution of the legislature at the session of 1895, respectfully reports:

THE OFFICE OF THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

The interests of education are of highest importance, and no better means are probably afforded for obtaining information with respect to the progress made in and what concerns them, more especially in the administration of official responsibility, than a consideration of the work accomplished by the University of the State of New York.

Your committee was duly impressed with the character of the labors imposed upon it by the legislature, and proceeded to make as thorough investigation as possible of the manner in which the office of the regents was conducted. Much time was necessarily consumed in taking up in detail the various departments committed to the direction of the duly constituted officers of the university. A thorough inspection was made of every division and the means and methods employed in the management of its affairs. So rapid has been the growth of the work demanded by increased interest in educational matters, that the notice of the committee was especially directed in the outset to the want of adequate room for necessary clerical force and the proper disposition of books and documents accumulated to such extent that more room with due economy of arrangement is absolutely required for immediate use. . . .

Proceeding upon the investigation from time to time, your committee took up the subject of the administration of the university in its vari-

ous ramifications, and for the result of their labors attention is invited to many important subjects brought out and explained in exhaustive detail by the testimony of the responsible officers of the regents' office.

Under the direction of the present secretary, by authority and sanction of the regents, so many changes in administration have been made and such departure from previous customs effected by which a decided revolution of system has been accomplished, setting aside views and methods of administration long observed by former directors, that much criticism found its way to the attention of the committee, culminating in complaints against the management of the secretary's office; and hence the committee found itself confronted with an investigation into the official conduct of the director of the university. It was not anticipated in the outset that the inquiry would assume such character, as the original intention of the investigation was to ascertain what provision might be required by legislation for necessary means to sustain the university for the accomplishment of its great purpose. The committee was therefore placed in such position that it could not decline, from the nature of the charges made, to proceed to inquire thoroughly into the matters complained of, in justice to the high character of the office of the regents and the persons particularly involved. These charges having been made in public newspapers, assumed a prominence and importance demanding the committee's thorough scrutiny, and every means at command were employed to ascertain the source and truth of every allegation. Much more time was therefore required to prosecute the investigation than would have been necessary to make examination of the condition and ordinary routine of the regents' office. Every opportunity was given to all who might be interested or expressed a desire to be heard, and the committee made every endeavor to secure the attendance of witnesses having any knowledge of the matters and things complained of, in order to set at rest what might otherwise impair the usefulness and dignity of a high public office.

Before entering upon a review of the proceedings had and concluded after exhaustive inquiry, it should be stated that no charge or intimation was made to involve in any respect the official action or personal character of any member of the board of regents. No insinuation was made and nothing implied that could reflect upon any act done by the regents of the university as subversive of the momentous concerns entrusted to their wisdom and care. There had evidently been growing up for some five or six years in certain quarters a spirit of opposition to the vigorous, if not to say aggressive policy of the present director of the university, whose position is somewhat of a dual character, being both director of the regents' office and state librarian. Obsolete practices had been overturned and a new order of things adopted, comprehending to considerable extent a reorganization of the *personnel* of the office as well as the system of work. This un-

avoidably produced more or less friction during the period necessary to put into effective operation what the new conditions required. It is characteristic of old ideas and forms to give way slowly to progressive opinion and policy; hence the introduction and vigorous application of widely different means for accomplishing largest results are met with resistance and disfavor from those whose habits and prejudices had become unconsciously a part of the system sought to be supplanted. In inaugurating the new order of things and adapting the means at command to new situations and requirements, disapproval found expression in various forms. No charge was made that the interests of education had been purposely retarded, or that such innovations had been set up as were calculated to exert an influence injurious to the cause of learning in the relations of the university to the educational institutions of the state.

A man endowed with the progressive spirit, energy, and will displayed by Professor Dewey might be expected to incur opposition, if not hostility, to his conception of duty and responsibility of office. It was therefore apparent that in order to arrest and prevent the execution of his plans under the sanction of the regents to place the work of the university and the management of the library upon a different plane, it was necessary to create a sentiment of disfavor and prejudice by recourse to charges reflecting upon personal conduct complicating official relations. It was charged that Secretary Dewey had used his office for private ends, and these charges were made with such directness and publicity that it became a matter of most serious import. It would not be fair to Secretary Dewey to withhold the statement in this place that he repeatedly demanded most searching examination into all the matters and things contained in any complaint, insinuation, or charge concerning any official act of his or any relation he might have had with any subject or matter in any wise connected with the university. The committee felt bound to spare no time or labor, and exhausted every means and resource to ascertain the truth without regard to whom it might involve or what the consequences.

For the purpose of placing before the legislature the nature and scope of the charges, it will be necessary to refer to communications submitted to the committee appearing in a newspaper published in the city of Albany and which are contained and set out in full in the proceedings. It was charged by the said newspaper, *The State*, that Secretary Dewey had committed offences derogatory to his office in specified particulars. Witnesses were summoned before the committee to testify, and their testimony will be found in the minutes of the proceedings annexed to this report, to which reference is made to sustain the conclusions of the committee and to define the animus and nature of the accusations. It will clearly appear, as your committee believes, that not a single charge involving the integrity and official conduct of the accused was sus-

tained. In weighing all the testimony taken and that could be obtained from witnesses produced, and allowed to testify with the widest latitude, no other result could be reached by the committee than that the charges were not only not sustained, but that by the means and spirit in which they were brought and persistently prosecuted, they were vexatious, frivolous, and detrimental to public interests. . . .

The committee granted the widest latitude in its proceedings, and consented to frequent adjournments for the purpose of giving abundant time and opportunity to show what of truth might be contained in the charges. The author of the article which appeared in the newspaper heretofore mentioned and the editor of the paper were subpoenaed, and gave testimony as to the source of their information. Numerous other witnesses, whose names had been given as authority for the statements, were also produced, but not a scintilla of evidence was brought out to establish a single charge, or what would reflect upon the personal and official integrity of Professor Dewey. Dr. Hall and other persons who had from time to time official and business transactions with Secretary Dewey were mentioned as the sources of the information upon which the newspaper charges were made as appeared in the testimony of Henry Hazelton, the author of the article referred to, then city editor of *The State*, but these witnesses testified that they had no knowledge of the matters contained in the article and had given no information, nor made any statements of the kind attributed to them, either to Mr. Hazelton or anybody else; and thus unsupported by witnesses appearing before the committee, the charges were found to have no foundation whatever in fact or in truth.

It is to be regretted that the name of Dr. Hall was introduced in any such unwarranted manner in connection with a newspaper assault upon a public officer, for its wanton use no doubt precipitated an unpleasant controversy. The charge that Secretary Dewey had used his office to influence and promote his personal interests was not only not sustained, but was disproved in every particular worthy of any consideration, and the committee would not feel that its duty had been fully discharged without condemning the unwarranted liberty taken in the use of names of public officers by a class of sensational news-mongers who unfortunately find ready place in the columns of reckless publications for scandalous reports.

In reviewing the work of the university the committee derived much information with respect to the important interests and responsibilities with which it is charged in relation to literature and higher education. A most thorough and systematic organization of means employed was observed in every department, and it is the opinion of the committee that the management of the university in all its ramifications is wisely and economically administered. In the matter of clerical force employed, it may be observed that while it has increased under the operation of authority provided for

the extension of university work, it has not increased in expense in proportion to the additional labors imposed upon its direction. Some comment was suggested in this connection upon the scale of salaries paid to the employees which did not seem to compare favorably with what clerks or employees received in other departments of public service; but this was fully explained by Secretary Dewey, as may be noticed in his examination, to the effect that persons employed in the university and state library were receiving better pay than those performing like duties in private employment. Furthermore, it was represented that an element of compensation was contained in the nature of the service which fitted the employees for lucrative positions where aptitude was displayed, in the many public libraries throughout the country, and not infrequently applications were made for librarians who had passed through the grades of instruction prescribed by the university. This is specially evidenced by the high standing of the library school, which has attracted so much attention and interest that the regents have not been able, with the facilities and room at their disposal, to make places for all who have applied.

AUTOTYPE REPRODUCTION OF RARE MSS.

A. W. SIJTHOFF, of Leiden, has recently issued the prospectus, with specimen pages, of the ancient manuscripts which he is to publish in photographic reproduction, under the editorial direction of Dr. W. N. Du Rieu, librarian of the University of Leiden. The plan on which these reproductions are issued is already familiar to readers of the JOURNAL, and Dr. Du Rieu in his communication in the March L. J. set forth again the history of the project. It is proposed to include in the first series 12 autotype reproductions, each of which will be edited by Dr. Du Rieu and furnished with a critical and historical introduction. The first manuscript chosen for reproduction, of which specimen pages are now published, is the famous "Vetus Testamentum Graece, Codex Sarravianus-Colbertinus Saec. v.," of which 260 pages are at Leiden, 44 at Paris, and two at St. Petersburg. This will be supplied with a preface by M. Omont, conservateur of the Bibliothèque Nationale, and will cost, bound in mediæval style, \$40.

The other mss. which will be included in the first series are as follows:

Aeschylus. Codex Laurentianus xxxii., 9 saec. x. — XI. — Palaeogr. Society t. 83. Collezione Fiorent. t. ix.

Anthologia Graeca. Codex Palatinus saec. x. — XI. Pars prior = Cod. Heidelberg. 23. Pars altera = Cod. Paris. suppl. Gr. 384. — Wattenbach, Exempla codd. Graec. t. 36. Omont t. 33. (Cf. *Centralblatt f. Bibliothekswesen* ix., page 40.)

Dioscorides. Codex Vindobonensis Gr. 3. cum miniaturis saec. vi. — Palaeogr. Soc. t. 177. cet.

Homeri Ilias. Codex Ambrosianus F. 205. Inf., cum miniaturis saec. v. — Palaeogr. Society t. 39, 40, 50, 51.

Plato. Codex Oxoniensis Bodl. Clarkianus 39 saec. ix. (an. 895). — Wattenbach, Exempla t. 3. Palaeogr. Society t. 81.

Anthologia Latina. Codex Salmasianus Parisinus 10318 saec. vii. — viii. — Zangemeister, Exempla codd. Lat. t. 46.

Horatius. Codex Bernensis 363 saec. ix. — Chatelain, Paléographie d. class. Lat. t. 76, 77.

Livius. Codex Corbeiensis (Puteaneus) Parisinus 5730 saec. v. — vi. — Zangemeister, Exempla t. 19. Palaeogr. Society t. 31, 32. Chatelain, t. 116. cet.

Lucretius. Codex Vossianus Oblongus Leidensis Voss. L. F. 30 saec. ix. — Chatelain, t. 56, 57.

Tacitus. Codices Medicei Laurentiani 68, 1 — 2 saec. ix. — Collezione Fiorent. t. 2 et 14. Palaeogr. Society t. 11. 90. cet.

Virgilius. Codex Medicus Laurentianus 39, 1 saec. v. — Zangemeister, Exempla t. 10. Palaeogr. Society t. 86. Chatelain, t. 66, 1. cet.

A LIBRARIAN'S TREASURE-TROVE.

WILLIAM MAY, librarian of the Birkenhead (Eng.) Free Public Libraries, is reported to have made recently one of those curious finds in which bibliographers delight. It was while rummaging over a discarded lot of books from a solicitor's shelves that Mr. May stumbled upon an old black-letter volume, which was bound in as the end of another old work. At first he thought he had dropped upon a pure Caxton, but subsequently he found it was even a greater rarity than one of the inventor's works. So rare was the volume that for some days the lucky finder was unable to identify it, but after much looking up of authorities it was shown to be a copy of Bonaventure's "Speculum vite Christi," as it is spelled in the original. This was printed by Wynkyn de Worde in 1494, the year when he returned to the use of Caxton's types; and it is the only book proper in which Caxton's No. 7 type was ever used, that type having been confined to the printing of indulgences, etc. Until Mr. May's discovery the only copy known to collectors was that in the possession of the Earl of Leicester, at Holkham, where William Roscoe discovered so many valuable manuscripts and early books.

Mr. May's copy, which has remained in obscurity so long, has not escaped damage; as a matter of fact, it has evidently been used as a children's scrap-book. The binder has been almost as great a vandal, for he has cut far into the side-notes in several places. The exact number of leaves in the complete book seems to be unknown, but the newly found copy contains 108, and lacks some leaves preceding the signature C iii., and all following R iii. What renders the work of unique interest is the employment of Caxton's rare No. 7 type for the side-notes, which terminate at the signature H, the rest of the notes being in the

same type as the text. There are in this copy 15 large cuts of great beauty, measuring $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and also four smaller cuts similar to those in Caxton's earlier "Speculum." The books among which this treasure was discovered were a personal gift to Mr. May from a friend, so that the "Speculum" is his own property, and is now in his possession.

AS TO AUTHOR CATALOGS.

In the April issue of *The Book-leaf*, the organ of the Denver Public Library, Mr. J. C. Dana says: "We are printing a list of the books in this library in this journal, one department at a time. The list is set on linotype bars—in about 99 per cent. of the cases one bar to an entry. It is an author list. When it is all out we propose to combine all the author lists into one alphabet. The sections of this author list as they appear, and other special lists that we have printed from time to time, give us added evidence, if any were necessary, of the futility of an author catalog. In fiction an author catalog may be of considerable use; and particularly if the public does not have access to the books. In other departments of a library an author list seems to be about as near useless as any kind of a list the library could issue. My advice to the library of limited means, which proposes to issue a brief finding-list of any kind, would be to issue a list alphabetically arranged by titles, modifying the titles wherever necessary to make them indicate somewhat in regard to the contents of the book. This, of course, would be over and above the regular author catalog used for official purposes in the library."

A LIBRARIANS' CHURCH.

THERE is a little church in New York City which has probably a larger proportion of "library people" among its members and visitors than any other place of worship. The brother of the minister is one of the directors of the largest Y. M. C. A. library in the city. (The two brothers, by the way, have inherited and added to the fine private library of their father, which was fully described in Wynne's "Private Libraries of N. Y.," when it numbered 9000 volumes, and which now comprises over 20,000.) The three male members of the little choir of six are librarians: one has charge of the library of a noted club of professional men, another is the young and progressive head of a venerable and well-known subscription library, and the third has been connected for nearly 15 years with a library which is perhaps better known to the general public, by name at least, than any other. A cataloger at the most noted college library in the city is a frequent attendant at the services, as is also a young western librarian who is spending an extended vacation with the pastor's family. Even the organist is an ex-librarian. Yet the congregation often numbers but 50!

American Library Association.

President: J. C. Dana, Public Library, Denver, Col.

Secretary: H. L. Elmendorf, Public Library, St. Joseph, Mo.

Acting Treasurer: E. L. Anderson, Carnegie Library, Pittsburg, Pa.

18th Conference, Cleveland, O., Sept. 1-4, 1896.

THE preliminary program of the conference has not yet been issued, but among the features announced are the following:

The new supplement to the A. L. A. catalog will be presented by Miss M. S. Cutler, and an entire session of the conference will be devoted to the discussion of a selected list of books from the supplement, the selecting committee giving their reasons for selection and exclusion.

"Advertising a library" will be the subject of a paper by Miss L. E. Stearns.

"The evaluation of books and annotated book-lists" will be presented by George Iles, of New York.

A session for beginners will be held under the direction of leading members, when all questions submitted will be answered as fully as possible.

A joint session of the Trustees' Section will be held with the A. L. A., which will be attended by many prominent trustees.

The conference headquarters will be at the Hollenden Hotel, and the meetings will be held in the assembly-room of the Chamber of Commerce, about one block from the Hollenden. One afternoon will probably be devoted to a trolley ride, visiting various institutions, and an evening to a reception by the Rowfant Club. The local arrangements at Cleveland are in charge of Mr. Brett, assisted by Miss Mildred Wood and a local committee.

There will be a paper by R. G. Thwaites on "The points of historic interest on the post-conference trip," which will be sent to members with the final program in July. The post-conference trip will begin on September 5, when the party will reach Detroit for breakfast and entertainment by the city, and will proceed thence by boat to Mackinac and other points of interest.

State Library Associations.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA.

President: J. C. Rowell, Librarian University of California, Berkeley.

Secretary: A. M. Jellison, Librarian Mechanics' Library, San Francisco.

Treasurer: A. J. Cleary, Odd Fellows' Library, San Francisco.

THE April meeting of the Library Association of Central California was held at Alameda, Cal. President Rowell presided, and the topic of the evening was "Pulpit, press, and public

library as means of influencing public opinion and elevating humanity."

Rev. George R. Dodson, of the First Unitarian Church, was introduced as the first speaker, and he presented a thoughtful discourse on the effect of books on modern life and society, and particularly on the pulpit.

"Every influence that tends to the enlightenment of the people," he said, "reacts beneficially upon the pulpit. A reading public necessitates an educated ministry. Libraries and schools force the preacher upward. A candle could give light in mediæval darkness. To-day there must be intelligence in the pulpit or the pews will be empty. On the other hand it is a very great help to a minister to have his people read. For he can then teach them things that were otherwise impossible. The press, pulpit, and library are to be regarded as co-operating and mutually healthful factors in the elevation of humanity, *i.e.*, in its salvation."

T. G. Daniells then spoke on the press. After comparing the newspaper a hundred years ago with that of to-day, and otherwise illustrating the progress of the press, he said: "The newspaper of a third or a quarter of a century ago wielded its influence through its editorial columns. That was the era of personality in newspaper-making; it was the golden age of the great editor. To speak of Greeley in that day was instantly to suggest the New York Tribune. To refer to the New York Herald was to call to mind the elder Bennett. The Evening Post and William Cullen Bryant were synonymous, and the Louisville Journal was known because George D. Prentice edited it. But if the editor has lost something of his conspicuousness, and the editorial department something of its size, the newspaper has been vastly expanded otherwise, and the expansion has increased its power of influencing public opinion and elevating humanity. The press of to-day has popularized science. It instantly seizes upon the latest discoveries and deductions, and places them before the people. It is the only up-to-date encyclopædia. Of course, like every other institution, it has unworthy representatives, but they are happily in the minority. The best examples and the greatest number of modern newspapers, without being given to cant or humbug, stand for morality and the right, strive for enlightenment and progress."

Ergo Majors, a member of the Alameda High School, followed with a paper on "The benefits of the public library to students," and D. J. Sullivan, superintendent of schools, spoke *ex tempore*, to declare that the helpfulness of the public library to the schools cannot be overestimated. If there were a question of closing the schools or the library, it would be a difficult one to solve, for the influence of the library at this time is so great and far-reaching that it stands co-ordinate in importance to the public schools. Not only the teachers and the pupils but also the pulpit and the press go to the library for inspiration.

A. M. JELLISON, *Secretary*.

COLORADO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: C. R. Dudley, City Library, Denver.

Secretary: John Parsons, Public Library, Denver.

Treasurer: A. E. Whitaker, State University Library, Boulder.

CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: W. K. Stetson, Public Library, New Haven.

Secretary: Miss M. A. Richardson, Public Library, New London.

Treasurer: Mrs. F. W. Robinson, Otis Library, Norwich.

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Thomas Nelson, Public Library, East St. Louis, Ill.

Secretary: Miss E. L. Moore, Withers Public Library, Bloomington.

Treasurer: P. F. Bicknell, University of Illinois, Champaign.

INDIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Rollin A. Kautz, Bowen-Merrill Co., Indianapolis.

Secretary and Treasurer: Miss M. E. Ahern, Library Bureau, 125 Franklin street, Chicago, Ill.

IOWA LIBRARY SOCIETY.

President: J. W. Rich, State University Library, Iowa City.

Secretary: Miss Ella McLoney, Public Library, Des Moines.

THE proceedings of the sixth annual meeting of the association held in connection with the State Teachers' Association on January 1 and 2, and reported in the March number of the JOURNAL, have been reprinted for general distribution by the state superintendent of public instruction. The pamphlet forms state circular of information No. 3, 1896. It includes the program of the meeting, full minutes, list of members present, and two of the papers read, *i.e.*, "The library as a necessary factor in educational work," by H. H. Seerley, and "Close vs. broad classification," by Mary R. Whitcomb.

MAINE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: E. W. Hall, Colby University, Waterville.

Secretary: Miss H. C. Fernald, State College, Orono.

Treasurer: Prof. G. T. Little, Bowdoin College, Brunswick.

A MEETING of the Maine Library Association was held in the capitol at Augusta on March 12, and in spite of unfavorable weather there was a very good attendance. The morning session was devoted to business details and the election of officers. The following were chosen for the ensuing year: President, E. W. Hall, librarian of Colby College; Vice-presidents, Mrs. M. H. Curran, librarian of the Bangor Free Library, and Miss Alice C. Furbish, librarian of the Portland Public Library; Secre-

tary, Miss H. C. Fernald, of Maine State College, Orono; Treasurer, Prof. George T. Little, librarian of Bowdoin College. The rest of the morning was devoted to an inspection of the state library, under the guidance of State Librarian Carver and his assistant, E. W. Emery, and to the informal discussion of library topics.

The afternoon meeting was held in the senate chamber, and each subject presented was followed by general and free discussion. The opening paper, by Miss H. C. Fernald, was on "Organization and management of public libraries." In the discussion that followed, Mr. Carver gave an extended discourse upon the laws relating to the organization of the libraries, and the inducements which the state offered. He also offered suggestions on the selection of books, and the reading of criticisms in periodicals, to what extent and in what way to accept them.

Colonel Fred Atwood, to whom the organization of the Wintport Free Library is largely due, gave a description of the organization and management of the library. He said that each subscriber paid \$3 for the support of the organization at first, the library having been open a part of one day of the week. As the funds grew and the interest spread the opening time was extended. On the first day 11 volumes were issued, the next week 20; after a few weeks 167 were delivered, and recently 260 volumes were given out in one week. The library now has about 1000 volumes and has been a success in every way.

Miss Sarah B. Nichols, of the Calais Free Library, spoke of the care to be used in regard to the selection of books. She told of a legacy from J. S. Pike, amounting to \$15,000, of which it is now possible to use the interest on about \$5000. The conditions of Mr. Pike's bequest were such that no book can be purchased unless it has been published 10 years.

In regard to the Bangor Library, it was stated that most of the books were purchased by the librarian, but that expensive and doubtful books were left to a special committee.

In the absence of the Rev. W. W. Ranney, of Auburn, who was to read a paper on "Necessity of public libraries in country towns," Superintendent of Schools Stetson offered a few words in regard to the Auburn Library.

A valuable paper was then read by Prof. E. W. Hall, librarian of Colby College Library, on "The value and use of reference-books."

Prof. G. T. Little, librarian of Bowdoin College Library, followed with a paper on "Selection of books for free public libraries." Mr. Little said, in part: "The first and great difficulty is to decide wisely and fairly how far any particular free public library is to go in furnishing entertaining as distinct from instructive or educational reading. In a word, how much can it spend on popular novels and juveniles? Few of us who are not directly connected with free libraries in large places can realize the large amount of money that can be spent in meeting the demand for such books. I once heard Judge Chamberlain, when in charge of the Boston Public Library, say that he could in-

crease its circulation by 50,000 by simply buying a few hundred copies of Oliver Optic and Horatio Alger's last books. When the 'Trilby' rage was upon us, even the smallest library could have used a half dozen copies, if it sincerely attempted to meet the demands of its readers. Since Miss Evans published 'St. Elmo,' there have appeared some of the best novels of Dickens, Thackeray, and George Eliot, and yet I venture to say that it would cost any public library three times as much to meet the demand for books of the former as of the latter type. In a word, popular and sensational novels are of the nature of sweetmeats. If a free library furnishes candy, the demand will be large.

"A second difficulty lies in avoiding immoral books. Every one agrees that a public library must not lower the moral tone of a community. Every one agrees that the public circulation of some books will lower the moral tone. But no one agrees as to just what books will do this. The difficulty is increased by the obvious fact that what is food for one person may be poison to another. A book, moreover, whose aid is to elevate and improve, may have such marked blemishes in places against good taste, not to say decency, as to make it problematical whether these will not more than neutralize the good to come from the book itself. For instance, I should, on the whole, rule out of a public library, on this ground, a book by Dr. Dio Lewis, entitled 'Chastity,' and written with the best of motives. But the most dangerous and at the same time the most difficult to guard against, are novels written by authors of high literary standing and issued by houses of good repute, which nevertheless have either scattered through them or woven into their texture what must in plain English be called filth. There are certain descriptions of vice and sin which are given in such detail with such realism that one cannot read and comprehend them without being more or less polluted. The danger from such books is increased when, as happened lately, they appear in two forms. Mr. Hardy's novel of 'Jude the obscure' came out as a serial in *Harper's Monthly*. Published as a separate book by the same firm, we find in it page after page of objectionable matter to which the editor of the magazine refused admittance but which the publishers and author have insisted the public libraries should place before their patrons, if they buy the novel.

"The third and last difficulty which I will mention is that of ascertaining before purchase which among half a dozen new books on some subject of general interest is the best for the library in question. Most of us are compelled to select, and our trouble in deciding lies partly in the number of books, partly in the high character which, judging from the advertisements, every one of them has. In the first place, I think that all selection of new books for a free public library should aim at what, for want of a better term, I may call symmetry. In other words, the selectors must have a certain ideal before them. That ideal must obviously vary with

different communities. But it must exist, and to a degree control the purchases. In one place it may call for the expenditure of half the income in buying fiction; in another town it may call for the purchase of books on the useful arts to an extent at which a college library would stand abashed. The point is that the buying must not be haphazard. My own experience in library work leads me to feel more and more strongly the necessity of the librarian's having some knowledge of the scope and character of every new book added to his collection. He cannot, of course, always gain it from a personal examination of the volume, but let him strive to obtain it somehow. Whoever selects the books, let the custodian make himself capable of passing judgment on the wisdom of the selection."

After the meeting the members visited the Lithgow Library, where they were entertained by Miss Julia M. Clapp, the librarian, and her assistant, Miss Jennie Patterson.

In the evening the association, with a large percentage of outsiders, assembled in the Unitarian church to listen to a lecture on "Books" by Rev. E. E. Newbert. This session concluded with an enjoyable social gathering in the vestry of the church, where refreshments were served. Before adjournment the association tendered a general vote of thanks to State Librarian Carver and Mr. Emery.

MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB.

President: C. K. Bolton, Public Library, Brookline.

Secretary: W. H. Tillinghast, Harvard College Library, Cambridge.

Treasurer: Miss A. L. Sargent, Public Library, Medford.

On April 8 the club, accompanied by the vice-director and members of the New York State Library School,* visited Bridgewater, where they were hospitably entertained by the trustees of the Public Library. On the way from the train the party visited the library, which is housed in the building erected by the town as a memorial to the soldiers of the civil war. One room contains a very fine collection of antiquities, Indian and other; the remainder of the building is devoted to the library.

The club next adjourned to the town hall, where President Bolton called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Theodore F. Wright, of Cambridge, formerly of Bridgewater, welcomed the club, sketching the history of the town and of the library, and touching upon the opportunities afforded the librarian in a country town of having a personal acquaintance and personal influence with all the frequenters of the library. Mr. Wright did not speak of his own part in the establishment of the library, but the fact that its existence was largely owing to his

energy and public spirit made his address peculiarly appropriate.

The subject for the day was then taken up—"The public library in its relation to the social life of the community." No papers were read, but the topic was discussed conversationally, according to the following questions, propounded by the president:

"Do you try to get acquainted with different classes and sections of your town?"

"How far do you try to help people along the lines of their hobbies?"

"Do you attempt to join the local organizations for charity, debate, etc.?"

"In how far do you consider the special peculiarities of your town, as to local problems in administration, trade, religion, etc.?"

"Do you strive to make the library an intellectual and social centre?"

Miss Nina Browne advised librarians to make the acquaintance of the president of the local trade union; through him acquaintance with other local leaders among workmen could be had, and much could be learned of their peculiar needs, so that such books as they wished and needed could be provided for them. Nothing is more needed than to make artisans and the leaders of trades unions believe that the library exists for their benefit, and induce them to use it for informing themselves on economic matters and all questions of the day.*

Mr. Gardner M. Jones thought the librarian should make himself familiar with the geography of his town—with the geography of nature and the geography of man, and should keep the run of all matters that affect the public interests, but that he should keep out of personal local politics entirely. The librarian should join the local historical society and the local society of natural history; beyond that he should show an interest in all such organizations and be willing to serve them, but should consult his personal preferences as to joining them. He should not let his church affiliation affect the administration of the library.

Dr. Farnham, of Randolph, said that at their library they never repelled any seeker after truth, and encouraged even the cranks. He urged the importance of very minute cataloging as essential to getting the full usefulness of a small collection of books.

In reply to a question from the president, Miss Stanley, of Southbridge, said that there was a large French population in Southbridge, but that they did not read much. The library circulation of French books (of which they had 300 vols.) was 11%. She did not agree with those who believed that foreigners should not be supplied with books in their own language but should be expected to learn English.

* Apart from other and graver reasons for this course, it may be doubted whether those who are trying to reduce the percentage of fiction in the circulation at their libraries can find a more promising means than by work along the lines here indicated. Without being hostile to fiction, or admitting that those who want to read novels ought to buy them, one may yet desire the increase of more serious reading. — W. H. T.

* It was hoped that the members of the Pratt Institute Library class would also be present, but the shortness of their stay in the vicinity of Boston deprived us of the pleasure.

Mr. Houghton, of Lynn, had some French books in his library, but they were not read. He regarded a catalog as subservient to personal help. Nine times out of 10 a person gets hold of the wrong book through a catalog. Find out just what each reader wants. Most readers have very definite ideas of what they want, though they may not know where to look for it, or even how to ask for it. Hobbies are good. People with hobbies know something and want to know more, and the librarian knows just what to give them next time. They are a push to the librarian and assistants, whom their demands help to educate.

Mr. Champlin asked if Mr. Houghton would help people who came to look up answers to questions in magazines in order to get a chromo.

Mr. Houghton thought he should. The information thus obtained was valuable even if it were got for the sake of a prize.

Mr. Bolton spoke of a child who came to him for help and was induced to read about half the "Odyssey" while searching for one answer. He did not see what right a public official had to deny help to readers even if they came in the hope of getting a chromo or joining a patriotic society.

Mr. Wellman, of the Boston Athenæum, thought much depended on how help was given. To teach a person how to look up a subject was worth the time it took.

Mrs. Sanders said that a librarian should give all the time needed to helping people to get what they come for, no matter what that is. At the Pawtucket library she had recently introduced book-marks with the legend "When in doubt consult the Public Library," and one was placed in every book.

Mr. Pennock, of New Bedford, thought that the library ought to be an aggressive force in the community.

Mr. A. C. Boyden, of the Normal School and a trustee of the Bridgewater library, then invited the club to take dinner at Central Square Church, and afterward to visit the normal school. The club adjourned, and after a pleasant meal was conducted over the large new building of the normal school and shown the school in actual operation. It is hardly too much to say that the admirable arrangements of the building and the evidence of careful training and actual practice in teaching were a surprise and delight to all.*

The afternoon session opened at 3:15 p.m.

The president announced that the next meeting, by invitation of Mr. C. A. Cutter, would be held at the Forbes library in Northampton, early in June.

The secretary having distributed some copies of Mr. Crandall's "First draft" of a bill for the better printing and binding of public

documents, the president asked if the club wished to take any action as to endorsing the bill. Upon a motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. C. A. Cutter, the matter was referred to the executive committee.*

A committee consisting of Mr. Faxon, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Jones, Miss M. E. Sargent, and Miss Thurston was appointed to consider and report upon the practicability and desirability of maintaining a permanent club-room in Boston available for meetings of the executive committee (but not for club meetings), for deposit of books, specimens, etc., belonging to the club, and for use of members visiting the city. Upon motion of Mr. C. A. Cutter a vote of thanks to the trustees and librarian of the Bridgewater Public Library, to Rev. Mr. Wright, and to the principal of the normal school was adopted.

Mr. Jones called attention to a list of questions sent out by the committee on lists of select fiction, by which it is hoped to learn whether the "Lists of select fiction" issued by the club during the present year have proved themselves of sufficient service to justify an attempt to find ways and means for continuing the publication. The club is not able to meet the cost of the work from its annual income. Mr. Jones also asked for volunteers for readers.

Mr. C. A. Cutter described an exhibition which he had just held of 500 Sella photographs of scenery in the high Alps and the Caucasus. The collection belongs to the Appalachian Mt. Club (9 Park st., Boston), and will be loaned to any institution in the United States for exhibition, on payment of expressage. He would soon have an exhibition of photographs from the Soule Photograph Co.; in this case the company bears the entire cost and sends a man to hang and take down the pictures.

Mr. Bolton, in recalling the subject of the day, alluded to possibilities in libraries in the way of conversation-rooms, etc., which might hereafter seem as natural as the lunch-counter in public schools. He called upon Miss Cutler, of the New York State Library School, who said: "The successful librarian must be a student of society; he must get a sympathetic grip of all the great questions which stir our age. He must be a student of his own town, and know the bosses, the labor leaders, the clergy, the manufacturers, the charitable people, reporters, policemen, and reformers. Why? In order to reach the entire population through their natural leaders; to get at the spirit of civic life, and make himself an essential part of the civic life." Miss Cutler then spoke of the supplement to the A. L. A. catalog, now in preparation, proofs of which will be sent out about July 1. All are asked to vote upon the titles submitted, and to add comments upon the

*One of the schools of the town from the kindergarten to the ninth grade is conducted in the Normal School building. At the afternoon session the normal pupils assist the regular teachers. The laboratory system is everywhere in evidence, each class-room being supplied with specimens, pictures, and books. There is, besides, a general library.

*The executive committee, having considered the bill, sent a letter heartily approving it and urging its enactment, to the committee on printing and to the senators and representatives from Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

books. In concluding, Miss Cutler thanked the club and the librarians for the kind reception which the school had everywhere met.

Mr. Payson, of Norton, described their library, which was founded under the corporation law, but receives help from the town, and has three selectmen on the governing board. They have many isolated families to provide for, and to these they send such old books as have been twice bound, without caring whether they are returned or not. He hoped that the club would send a delegate to attend the annual meeting of the trustees.*

Mr. Crane, of Taunton, thought that libraries ought to be so planned that the privilege of exhibitions and other social opportunities could be extended more freely to the people. We ought to be able to accommodate more of the floating masses, to entertain them and instruct them.

Mr. Bolton asked whether public receptions at the library would work to break down lines between classes, or whether the presence of certain sections of the population would tend to keep other sections from attending in the future?

Miss Newhall, of Saugus, told of a public reception held at their library on the night of one of the worst storms known in the town. Provision had been made for 300, but only 47 came. She intended to try it again this year. A committee of 12 was appointed to introduce people and look after those who were not used to attending receptions. The invitation was general and was given through the newspapers.

An account was also given of a library reception held in a small town in Vermont where several hundred attended, some coming 10 miles or more. Ice-cream and cake were provided. There were no addresses. The efficiency of the library had been greatly increased. The invitation was given in the newspapers and also from house to house.

Mr. Ray gave an account of the annual reception held in the library-room of the Young Men's Christian Union on the last Wednesday in May. This is entirely informal, open to the public, to ladies as well as gentlemen. Many young men join after each of these receptions.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. About 150 people were in attendance.

WM. H. TILLINGHAST, *Secretary*.

MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: H. M. Utley, Public Library, Detroit.

Secretary: Mrs. A. F. Parsons, Public Library, Bay City.

Treasurer: Miss Lucy Ball, Public Library, Grand Rapids.

MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Dr. W. W. Folwell, State University, Minneapolis.

* The annual meeting was held on April 30, and the president of the club attended and made an address.

Secretary and Treasurer: Miss Gratia Countryman, Public Library, Minneapolis.

NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: W. W. Bailey, Nashua.

Corresponding Secretary: Miss Grace Blanchard, Public Library, Concord.

Librarian and Treasurer: Miss A. M. Colby, Public Library, Concord.

THE annual meeting of the association will be held in Claremont, in July. A plan for reorganization will be one of the subjects for discussion.

NEW JERSEY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Miss Cornelia A. See, Public Library, New Brunswick.

Secretary: Miss Beatrice Winsor, Public Library, Newark.

Treasurer: Miss Emma L. Adams, Public Library, Plainfield.

NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: J. N. Larned, Buffalo Library, Buffalo.

Secretary: W. R. Eastman, State Library, Albany.

Treasurer: J. N. Wing, Chas. Scribner's Sons, 153 Fifth avenue, New York City.

A MEETING of the association will be held in Syracuse, N. Y., on May 29-30, at the Syracuse Central Library. The following program will be presented, subject, of course, to slight modifications:

Friday, May 29, 2:30 p.m.

Address of welcome. James K. McGuire, mayor.

President's address. J. N. Larned, Buffalo.

The library situation in central New York.

W. R. Eastman, Albany.

How we started our library movement. B. G. Clapp, Fulton.

A library association or a public library?

Fred Van Dusen, Ogdensburg.

6 p.m.

Entertainment by Syracuse Central Library.

8 p.m.

Reading as a factor in education. James R. Day, D.D., Chancellor Syracuse University.

The opportunity of the teacher to influence

the reading of the young. Fox Holden, Olean.

Libraries as educators. Melvil Dewey, Albany.

Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m.

The opportunity of the librarian to influence the reading of the community. A. L. Peck, Gloversville.

How to advertise a library. W. D. Manro, Rome.

The value of a library to a rural community, and how to secure it. Anna R. Phelps.

The vote on the best 50 books of 1895. Mary S. Cutler.

Council table.

NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: D. A. Campbell, State Library, Lincoln.

Secretary: Miss Mary Jones, State University, Lincoln.

Treasurer: Miss Carrie C. Dennis, Public Library, Lincoln.

OHIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: W. H. Brett, Public Library, Cleveland.

Secretary: Miss Alice Boardman, State Library, Columbus.

Treasurer: Charles Orr, Case Library, Cleveland.

PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY CLUB.

President: John Thomson, Free Library, Philadelphia.

Secretary: C. S. Kates, Free Library, Branch 5, West Phila., Phila.

Treasurer: Mrs. M. A. Resag, Institute Free Library, Phila.

VERMONT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: Miss S. C. Hagar, Fletcher Free Library, Burlington.

Secretary: Miss M. L. Titcomb, Free Library, Rutland.

Treasurer: E. F. Holbrook, Proctor.

WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

President: F. A. Hutchins, Baraboo.

Secretary and Treasurer: Miss L. E. Stearns, Public Library, Milwaukee.

Library Clubs.

CHICAGO LIBRARY CLUB.

President: Anderson H. Hopkins, John Crerar Library.

Secretary: Miss May L. Bennett, Armour Institute.

Treasurer: W. W. Bishop, Garrett Biblical Institute.

NEW YORK LIBRARY CLUB.

President: W. F. Stevens, Railroad Branch Y. M. C. A., New York.

Secretary: Miss J. A. Rathbone, Pratt Institute Library, Brooklyn.

Treasurer: Miss Elizabeth Tuttle, Long Island Historical Society, Brooklyn.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITY.

President: Dr. Cyrus Adler, Smithsonian Institution.

Secretary and Treasurer: F. H. Parsons, U. S. Naval Observatory.

THE 15th meeting of the Library Association of Washington City was held on March 29, 1896, Dr. Cyrus Adler presiding.

The paper of the evening, furnished by Miss A. R. Hasse, was entitled "Some bad features of good books"—continued"; that having been the title of Dr. H. C. Bolton's paper at the last meeting.

Miss Hasse maintained that Dr. Bolton had criticised the early book-makers somewhat severely, in calling attention to many points open to censure, and concluding his subject with the first half of this century. Had he brought it down to date, he would have found that the largest publishing concern on this continent is daily committing solecisms against all the rules which librarians and their cult hold most sacred.

She then gave example after example of books issued by the United States Government whose faults in many respects equalled others mentioned by Dr. Bolton, and stated that all of those cited were printed since 1895, showing that we end-of-the-century people, instead of improving upon our predecessors, have not only continued their "bad features," but have added others of our own invention. An instance in pagination in the pamphlet laws of the third session of the 53d Congress certainly bore out her argument. Its many series in both Roman and Arabic numerals are too numerous to quote here. One octavo pamphlet of 207 pages was shown, having 155 words on its title-page, set up in 13 kinds of type; and the compiler refused to abbreviate it, saying "not a word could be spared." "Parting" and "voluming" led the speaker to declare that "it is senseless absurdity to call a book 'Part 2, of part 2, of volume 4, of part 5, of no. 1, of part 2, of volume 14'" (H. Ex. v. 14. 54-1).

Her summary we can all agree to, viz., "That it is not at all surprising the government of the United States has not a catalog of its publications, for the inconsistency with which these publications are issued makes cataloging, 'as she is taught,' or cataloging in any sense of the word, almost a physical impossibility."

The remainder of the evening was spent discussing H. R. bill 8213, which is designed "to simplify the methods of printing and binding of public documents," etc., etc. A number of criticisms were made, but all agreed with the sentiment expressed in a letter which was read from Librarian A. R. Spofford, "This is a long step in the right direction."

F. H. PARSONS, *Secretary.*

New York State Library School.

BOSTON VISIT.

THE usual annual trip of the Library School students to visit and inspect the libraries of near-by cities brought them this year to Boston, where they arrived on the evening of April 1. The party was generalised by Miss M. S. Cutler and numbered in all 35. Before reaching Boston the party had visited Springfield, where the City Library, Art Museum, and Wadsworth Athenæum were inspected; had been the guests of Miss Hewins at a reception at the Hartford Public Library; had visited the Watkinson Library, the Hartford Theological Seminary Library, the Connecticut State Library; and at Northampton had been conducted by

Mr. Cutter through the Forbes Library and the library of Smith College.

The first day in Boston, April 2, was devoted to the Athenæum; the Boston Book Co., where luncheon was served and where they were met by the visiting library class of Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, whose experiences are related elsewhere; to the State Library and to the Library Bureau; and in the evening to a reception given to the visiting librarians by Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Davidson at their home in East Watertown.

Friday, April 3, was a holiday, and the members of the party scattered, some to visit the Art Museum and kindred places of interest, others to shop or visit friends.

On Saturday the Riverside Press, at Cambridge, was visited in the morning, and the afternoon was given up to the Brookline Public Library, where the members were cordially welcomed by Mr. Holton. At noon an address on library training was made by Miss Cutler before the Nineteenth Century Club. Sunday was chiefly devoted to the Boston Public Library, which proved one of the most instructive and delightful features of the trip. The remainder of the itinerary was as follows: Monday, Harvard College Library, Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge Public Library; Tuesday, Salem Public Library, Essex Institute, Peabody Academy of Science, Salem Athenæum; Wednesday, Massachusetts Library Club meeting at Bridgewater; and Thursday, Boston Public Library again, with a flying visit to Wellesley College Library.

Library Schools and Training Classes.

PRATT INSTITUTE LIBRARY CLASS. BOSTON VISIT.

SURELY three days were never more full of interest, profit, and pleasure than those recently spent in Boston by the Pratt Institute Training Class. On April 2 the invading party reached the Park square station, where they were met by Miss Browne, of the Library Bureau, with a welcome so cordial as to atone for the pouring rain with which Boston greeted us. After a hasty breakfast at the Parker House we sallied forth, in spite of wind and weather, to investigate the Library Bureau at 146 Franklin street. We were cordially greeted by Mr. H. E. Davidson and others of the force and shown about the ample rooms, where every necessity, convenience, and luxury of library equipment is displayed. We were next taken out to the factory, where we saw catalog cases, trays, and shelves in the process of construction, and watched with interest the processes through which the large sheets of white paper passed until they were transformed into the white card with red and blue rulings, so familiar to all catalogers. From the factory we were escorted by our kind guides, Mr. Davidson and Mr. Parker, to the Boston Book Company on Beacon street, where we had been invited to lunch with the Library School from Albany and the librarians of the vicinity. Mr. C. C. Soule,

the president of the company, said in his address of welcome that the Boston Book Company was 20th in size among the libraries of the country. Before its organization it was impossible to obtain sets of periodicals guaranteed to be perfect, but it undertook to furnish perfect sets, and had thus fixed a standard to which other dealers had been forced to conform, whereby the library profession has been the gainer.

The next visit was to the Boston Athenæum, directly across the way. Mr. Lane met us and took us to the trustees' room, an interesting room hung with pictures, surrounded with statuary, and containing about 1200 books from the library of Washington at Mt. Vernon. Mr. Lane gave us a most suggestive talk about methods and work peculiar to the library. Nothing we saw or heard was more helpful or likely to be more fruitful than the hour we passed discussing their new plan for indexing illustrations in art-books, their method of treating government documents (by far the best way of disposing of that vexed question that we have yet seen), and their equally ingenious method of keeping track of continuations, annuals, transactions of societies, and the like. We then spent an hour or more going over the library, noting the famous Cutter classification, examining their no less famous catalog, and visiting with especial interest the bindery, where we discovered that they bound almost everything in red morocco, which seemed to us the height of library luxury.

That evening the class attended a reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Davidson to the Albany School, the members of the Massachusetts Library Club, and to our own party. The fatigue of the day was forgotten, and we were conscious only of the cordial hospitality and kindness of our host and their friends.

Friday morning we met at the Parker House, and started for the Children's Aid Society, where Mr. Birtwell and Mr. Pickering received us. We spent an hour discussing the home libraries that have been so successfully carried on in Boston. This was of especial interest to the members of the Library Chapter of the Pratt Institute Neighborhood Association, and we received many suggestions that we hope to use in our own work. It was with difficulty we tore ourselves away from this interesting talk; but a morning at the Boston Public Library, the Mecca of our journey, was before us. We were shown over the building by Mr. Herbert Putnam, Mr. Whitney, the head cataloger, Miss McGuffey, the head of the circulating department, and Mr. Russell, the librarian's assistant. Most interesting were the rooms devoted to special collections, music, fine arts, etc., the magnificent reference-room, Bates Hall, the newspaper-room, where 250 papers from all nationalities and tongues are on file, the children's room, large but already inadequate, the bindery, and the printing-office, where the entries for the catalog, special lists, etc., are printed by linotype machines. After this inspection we returned to the office, where Mr. Putnam invited us to question him on

whatever we wished to know about the library. In response to questions, he told of the relation of the library to the public schools, its co-operation with the college settlement, the connection between the library and its branches. Subjects of interest were inexhaustible, and so, apparently, were the patience and kindness of our host, but time would not stay for us, and so we left regretfully, and with many a lingering look behind us we crossed Copley Square in search of luncheon. The afternoon was spent at Cambridge, the Harvard library being the chief object of interest. Mr. Justin Winsor spent an hour talking to us about the treasures of the library. Mr. Tillinghast explained the methods of cataloging, ordering, etc., and then these gentlemen escorted us about, giving us a glimpse of their collections of rare and valuable books, mss., maps, etc. The day ended with a flying visit to the Cambridge Public Library, a very active, modern institution, evidently a power for good in the community which it serves with a refreshing absence of red-tape and formalism.

Saturday morning was spent at Wellesley College, inspecting the buildings as well as the library.

One of the most gratifying and, to a New Yorker, surprising features of the trip was the general interest shown in this visit of the library schools. The events of each day were chronicled in the papers. Library trustees and publishers as well as librarians gave us cordial greeting, we were entertained with most cordial hospitality, and not the least honor was an invitation to representatives of the two parties to address the Twentieth Century Club at their weekly luncheon, Saturday, on the work of the respective schools. The party from Pratt Institute returned on Saturday evening, weary, but full of enthusiasm over the sights seen and the kindness experienced.

JOSEPHINE A. RATHBONE.

SUMMER COURSES IN LIBRARY SCIENCE.

MADISON, WIS.

A Summer School of Library Science will be held at Madison, Wis., in connection with the University Summer School, beginning on Monday, July 6, and continuing through Friday, August 14, 1896. The course will be adapted to the needs of librarians, assistants, and teachers. Methods of buying, accessioning, cataloging, and lending books will be taught, with other details of library economy and management. Cataloging will be given special attention. Instruction will occupy three hours each day, and from two to three hours of independent work will be expected of each student. The tuition fee will be \$15 for the six weeks' course. Full information may be obtained by addressing the director, Miss Katharine L. Sharp, Armour Institute of Technology, Chicago, Ill., Dr. E. A. Birge, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis., or Miss L. E. Stearns, Public Library, Milwaukee, Wis.

ALBANY, N. Y.

THE first summer session of the New York State Library School will begin July 7, 1896,

and will last for five weeks. The course will be conducted by graduates of the school, with special lectures from the regular faculty. At the close of the session Regents' examinations will be given and certificates awarded to successful candidates. Only the simplest methods and most elementary work in cataloging, classification, accessioning, shelf-listing, loan systems, and bibliography will be taken up. Only those who hold credentials for the completion of a full four-year academic or high-school course, or its equivalent, will be admitted. For those engaged in library work in New York state, and who meet the admission requirements, instruction will be provided without charge as part of the work of the public libraries division; to all others the fee for the five weeks' course is \$20.

Reviews.

GADD, L. H. Catalogue of the Maryland State Library. Annapolis, 1895. Pt. 1: Law department, 10+379 p.; Pt. 2: Department of general literature, 4+268 p. O.

The copy before us is gilt-edged and handsomely bound, the two parts in one volume, with an equal number of blank pages bound in for insertions. It will look well on the shelf, delighting the eye; and this is probably the best that can be said of this catalog, as a catalog. It may be added, however, that the printer has done his part of the work very well.

There is a three-page historical sketch of the library and a list of the state librarians, with the term of office of each. The library was established under an act of the legislature passed Feb. 2, 1827.

It is evident that Librarian Gadd did not consult the Peabody catalog to any purpose, if at all, in the preparation of his own volume. There is nothing to tell at a glance the character of the books on the page—no running titles; and there is no index. At the beginning of each of the two parts is a table of contents, partly arranged in alphabetical order. In this table of contents for part 1 we find the entry "Subject catalog," and on turning to the pages indicated we discover works on "Life insurance," "Liberia," "Remedies," "Lunacy," etc. Truly this catalog must be used to be appreciated.

S: H. R.

MASSACHUSETTS F. P. L. COMMISSION. Sixth report, 1896. Public document, no. 44. Boston, 1896. 83 p. O.

The record of the work accomplished by the commission in 1895 is most gratifying testimony to the value of state encouragement of libraries. When the commission was organized in 1890 there were 125 towns in the state without a public library; there are now but 24, some of which are planning to start libraries, and nearly all of which contain association libraries. All of these towns have been urged by the commission to join the library ranks. During the year 10 towns have established li-

braries under the acts of 1890, 1892, or 1894, and have been supplied with books by the commission. Of the total population of the state, 2,500,183, only 40,364, or 1½%, are without access to free libraries.

Among the interesting features of the report are notes of the work of the Women's Education Association, and of the "Select lists of fiction" published by the Massachusetts Library Club; a capital symposium, made up of suggestions from librarians of the state, on "The best means of making a small library useful"; information as to library commissions in other states; and record of the library gifts and new buildings of the year. The tabulated statistics comprise the towns of the state, classified to show their varying library privileges; a list of the free public libraries of Massachusetts, arranged by counties, giving information as to population, library income, number of volumes, circulation, book and salary expenditure, number of branches, etc.; a list of free public reading-rooms, including data as to number of publications kept and hours of use; names of free public libraries and names of librarians, arranged alphabetically by towns; and a "Roll of honor" listing donors of public library buildings in Massachusetts.

PUTNAM, G. Haven. Books and their makers during the Middle Ages: a study of the conditions of the production and distribution of literature from the fall of the Roman Empire to the close of the 17th century. In 2 v. v. 1, 476-1600. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1896. c. 38+459 p. O. cl., \$2.50.

The present work was foreshadowed in Mr. Putnam's earlier book on "Authors and their public in ancient times," in which he stated that he hoped later "to trace the development of property in literature from the time of the invention of printing down to the present day." The first part of that task is now accomplished, in this handsome volume of some 500 pages, in which the record of book-makers and book-making is brought from the fifth to the 16th century; the second part, covering only the period from 1600 to 1710, will form a volume of equal dimensions. The detail and thoroughness with which Mr. Putnam has performed his labor are remarkable. He gives a valuable bibliography of "works cited or referred to as authorities," which covers 11 pages and lists about 500 volumes in various languages and of all ages, and he has evidently sought out and assimilated all the available material relating to his subject. In the sifting, arrangement, and presentation of this mass of information he has kept firm hold of his main purpose, the exhibition of the conditions surrounding the production and distribution of literature, so that the work—which might easily have become either an inchoate mass of valuable material, or a dry-as-dust bibliographic chronicle—preserves distinct continuity of thought and interest.

Beginning with the downfall of the Roman Empire, Mr. Putnam traces the production of books in Europe through the Middle Ages,

showing by what means were preserved the remaining fragments of classic literature, and through what agencies the intellectual spirit was sustained. Naturally the first of these agencies is found in the church, whose monasteries were the centres of the authorship, the publishing, and the book-preservation of the times. With the invention of printing came the wonderful revolution in book-making and distribution, the rise of the printer-publisher, the growth of private and public collections, and the development of the idea of property in literature. The work is thus divided naturally into two parts: Part 1, "Books in manuscript," covers 312 of the 500 pages, and is devoted to the making of books in monasteries, describing many of the monkish scribes, the details of scribe work, the work and influence of the *scriptorium*, the monastery schools and libraries, and the ecclesiastical regulations for the use and exchange of books; some public and private libraries of the manuscript period; the making of books in the early universities; and the book trade in the manuscript period. The chapters devoted to the mediæval libraries are of special interest to the librarians of to-day, and are full of quaint and interesting details. One, at least, we cannot refrain from quoting. It is an "advertisement" found in a copy of Locke's "Treatise on the Epistles," printed in 1711, and runs thus:

"Since, to the great reproach of the nations and a much greater one of our Holy Religion, the thievish disposition of some that enter into libraries to learn there no good, hath made it necessary to secure the innocent books, and even the sacred volumes themselves, with chains (which are better deserved by those ill persons who have too much learning to be hanged and too little to be honest), care should be taken hereafter that as additions shall be made to this library (of which there is a hopeful expectation), the chains should neither be longer nor more clumsy than the use of them requires, and that the loops whereby they are fastened to the books may be riveted on such a part of the cover and so smoothly as not to gall or raze the books while these are removed from or to their respective places."

Another collection of books, the property of Isidore, Bishop of Seville (c. 560-636), was guarded with the following inscription:

*"Non patitur quemquam coram se scriba loquentem;
Non est hic quod agas, garrule, perge foras."*

"(The scribe allows no one to speak in his presence; there is nothing for you to do here, chatterbox; you had better go outside)"—a motto which, Mr. Putnam remarks, "would serve very well for a reading-room of to-day."

Part 2, relating to "The earlier printed books," contains but three chapters and occupies hardly a third of the work. In the first chapter the influence of the Renaissance, as forerunner of the printing-press, is explained, and the others are devoted to the invention of printing, and the lives and methods of the men associated with it. The early printers of Hol-

land and Germany are the subject of chapter 2; the third and last is devoted to the printer-publishers of Italy, especial space being given to Aldus and his successors.

The great interest and value of Mr. Putnam's work have here been but slightly indicated. It is one of the most notable of recent contributions to the literature of bibliography—in the broadest sense of the word—and it should be read by all librarians who would know the beginnings and the history of that literature, in the "distribution," if not in the "production," of which their lot is cast. H. E. H.

Library Economy and History.

GENERAL.

BURGOYNE, Frank J., and Ballinger, J.: Books for village libraries; with notes upon the organization and management of village libraries, by James D. Brown. London, Simpkin, 1895. (Library Association ser., no. 6.) 46 p. O. net, 1 s.

Intended as a guide to the organization and administration of village libraries, but hardly enough in line with American methods to prove of practical use in this country. Brief instructions as to the most elementary methods of classifying, cataloging, accessioning, shelving, charging, etc., are given by Mr. Brown, of the Clerkenwell Public Library, and these are followed by two lists (author and classed) of 1000 volumes, suitable for a village library, giving short title, price, and publisher.

PATTEN, Frank C., librarian of the Helena (Mont.) Public Library, has an article on "Some features of the relations between public libraries and public schools" in the *Montana Educator* for April, in which he describes methods in vogue in Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Helena.

Public Libraries, a monthly devoted to the interests of "the small and new public libraries," makes its appearance for May, 1896 (v. 1, no. 1). It is edited by Miss M. E. Ahern, formerly state librarian of Indiana, and is published by the Library Bureau, at 215 Madison street, Chicago. The first number, of 36 p., contains the first draft of six chapters of the "A. L. A. Library primer," by J. C. Dana, to be issued by the Publishing Section of the A. L. A., notes as to the A. L. A. conference in Cleveland in September of this year, a record of recent library meetings, an article on "The relation of the Library Bureau to the libraries," by G. B. Meleney, and personal and general library items. There will be 10 numbers of the new monthly during the year.

LOCAL.

Akron (O.) P. L. The joint committee on library, appointed by the city council and library board, has urged the council to submit to popular vote a proposition to issue \$80,000 in bonds for the erection of a new library building.

Baltimore. Enoch Pratt F. L. The trustees have purchased ground on St. Paul st., near Huntingdon ave. (25th st.), for the building of a sixth branch library. This is the first branch to be built outside of the old city limits—the site is six blocks beyond the boundary of 1888, and two blocks beyond the Woman's College. It is hoped to have the library open to the public before the close of the year. The general style of the building will be like that of the other branches, but provision may be made for a larger reading-room.

Boston Athenaeum. (Rpt. — year ending Dec. 31, '95.) Added 3675; total 179,063; spent for books, binding, etc., \$10,262.71. Issued 28,980; card-holders and users 797.

A résumé of the more valuable accessions of the year is given. Considerable progress has been made in the preparation of the new shelf-list, though it will be about two years before the work is completed. "In order not to cumber our shelves, and spend unnecessary labor on current publications of little permanent value, but of a certain passing interest, we enter such books, when bought, on a temporary list, giving them running numbers by which they can be charged, but we do not put them on the catalog or the shelf-list. This method has been followed since April, and 43 books have been entered on this list. The intention is to bring all of these books before the committee again when a year has passed or the interest in them has ceased, and then to decide whether they will be incorporated with the library or rejected."

Braddock, Pa. Carnegie L. The Allegheny county authorities have filed a stated case against Andrew Carnegie to test their right to levy a tax on the Carnegie libraries in that county. The Braddock library property has been assessed for \$80,400 and exemption from borough and school taxes denied. The full statement, giving the assessment value of the property, description of the library, its income and purpose, is submitted to the Court of Common Pleas for decision.

BROOKLINE (Mass.) P. L. Information for readers; compiled by the librarian. Brookline, 1896. 36 p. T.

This little handbook (as it is entitled on the cover) is modelled somewhat on the lines of the Boston P. L. Handbook, and is a capital piece of library enterprise. It is a compact and attractive little library guide-book, useful not only to strangers and visitors, but to the library's constituency as well. The frontispiece is a good view of the library building, and there are several excellent cuts of the interior scattered through the text. It contains a short historical sketch of the library, lists of the trustees and of the members of the staff, information as to library hours, rules, privileges, information obtainable, children's room, and regulations as to school use, a record of the special lists issued, and notes of the local history department. There are also lists of "some interesting works in the library," of

periodicals subscribed to for library and home use, of 200 good novels, arranged by titles, and 100 good books, not fiction, for boys and girls. Appended is the full text of the library regulations. By using the material that had previously appeared in the monthly bulletin of the library, and which was held in type for the purpose, it was found practicable to issue this handbook at a low cost, so that its practical usefulness should more than make up for the expense entailed.

Brooklyn, N. Y. The bill authorizing the city of Brooklyn to appropriate \$100,000 for a public library, when a like amount shall be raised by the citizens or other persons, passed the legislature on April 23. The text of the bill is as follows:

"1. The board of estimate of the city of Brooklyn is hereby authorized, in their discretion, to appropriate \$100,000 toward the founding of a free public library in the city of Brooklyn, when a like amount shall have been subscribed and actually paid to the city treasurer, who shall retain it for the purposes of said library, paying out moneys only on orders signed by the mayor.

"This money shall be expended under direction of a commission consisting of the mayor, president of the board of aldermen, the president of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, and six persons to be appointed by the mayor."

It has, of course, no practical effect until \$100,000 is also raised by public subscription or gift.

Brooklyn, N. Y. Pratt Institute F. L. The library reports an increasing number of philanthropic clubs among its borrowers. There are at present eight of these clubs, drawing each from 20 to 200 books for the use of members, the books being kept from two weeks to a month. Collection and delivery of books is made by the club, and selection, though usually made by the library, may also be made by the club. One of the public schools has recently become a borrower on somewhat similar lines. A teacher, guaranteed by the principal, makes application for books for her pupils and sends the necessary messenger, either with or without a list of books desired. In the latter case, the number of books and average age of the pupils are given, to aid in making the selection. The library has now five home library circles, which are visited weekly by different members of the force.

The dedication of the new library building is set for May 28.

Brooklyn, N. Y. Union for Christian Work L. (Rpt.—year ending Dec., '95.) Added 3560; total 33,010. Issued, home use 167,771 (fict. 132,853); ref. use 2734. New registration 2158; total registration 18,514; active card-holders, about 5000. Receipts \$7297.07; expenses \$7088.45.

"Until November last our library was only open one evening of each week, Saturday. But to accommodate those whose occupation prevented them from coming on that evening, we have since that time opened the library also on Monday evening of each week. The result has been very successful."

Buffalo (N. Y.) L. (59th rpt.—year ending Jan. 31, '95.) Added 3978; total 77,046. Is-

sued, home use 128,222 (fict. 60,55%, juv. fict. 10,52%); lib. use 30,582. Total membership 2804. Receipts \$18,159.66; expenses \$17,140.27.

The circulation shows an increase of nearly 10,000 v. over the previous year. The recorded use of books shows an even greater advance.

"In fact, the use of the library for purposes of reference and study is growing far beyond all that could have been expected a few years ago, and it is not improbable that the dimensions of our reading-rooms, which seemed ample when the building was planned, will be found inadequate at some day not distant."

Mr. Larned continues: "I am pleased to say that every year brings the library into larger and closer relations with the young people of the city; and this is brought about, to a great extent, by the distribution of readers' tickets among the pupils of the public schools. The number of tickets so distributed has recently been raised to 1000, and generally speaking there is excellent use made of them. More and more of the teachers in the schools are interesting themselves in the guidance of the reading of their pupils, and the effect is unquestionably stimulating in several ways. So long as Buffalo has no free public library from which books can be drawn for home reading—or none beyond the meagre school libraries which the state has given to it, and on which it expends nothing from its own funds—these school tickets are a most important contribution to the educational system of the city. They go a little way toward redeeming us from the discredit in which we stand, as being very nearly the only city in America which does not support a collection of books for free public use."

The library committee say: "It is evident that there is scope in Buffalo for a library permitting the free withdrawal of books. It is very questionable whether it would be wise for the Buffalo library to surrender its management to municipal control, but it may be well that some arrangement might be made by which the institution should have a semi-public character, and furnish the city with the practical benefits of a free public library for withdrawal of books under restrictions as to class of books to be so drawn, and granting additional privileges to paying members."

Camden, N. J. Public agitation for a free library was started some weeks since, with the result that \$750 has been raised by subscription, in addition to the town appropriation of \$1500 authorized at the annual meeting in March.

Detroit (Mich.) P. L. (31st rpt.—year ending Dec. 31, '95.) Added 12,033; total 139,360; lost and paid for 49. Issued, home use 348,409 (fict. 74,14%); lib. use 347,224. New registration 5470; card-holders 27,596. Books bound 5667, at a cost of \$3241.70, an average of 57 cents per v. Receipts \$62,373.64; expenses (six months only) \$41,417.58.

"During the first two months of the year the prevalence of small-pox in the city interfered perceptibly with the use of the library. Several cases in the immediate vicinity of the library

building and a case in the home of one of the library assistants served to direct public attention to the institution. There was a popular belief that the contagion might be spread by means of library-books and this kept many people from using them. Every possible precaution was taken to guard against infected books. The board of health sent us daily reports of all cases. These cases were looked up, and if it was found that there was a library card in an infected house a message was at once sent to the quarantine officer in charge of the premises to destroy all library cards and books found therein. Altogether eight library-books were thus destroyed or taken to the contagious disease hospital for the use of the patients there. All the books were fiction. The loss to the library in the matter of dollars and cents was trifling. But the loss in patronage is seen by contrasting the circulation of the early months of the year with that of the corresponding months of the preceding year."

Important alterations in the library building have been in progress during the year, and "have driven away from the reading-rooms many people who seriously feel the loss of the privileges which the library affords." The changes will give place for a children's room, 40x30, on the ground floor, where children's books and periodicals will be made freely accessible; a new two-story steel stack will also be installed, and much-needed room will be added to the administrative offices of the library, to the reading-room, and the reference-room.

"Early in the spring the Detroit Medical and Library Association offered to give to the library without condition its entire collection of books and periodicals, and to continue at its own expense the subscription to some of the leading medical periodicals of this and other countries. The gift was accepted and the unbound magazines were collected and sent to the bindery. The whole number of volumes, including those unbound, thus received was 2728, of which 1068 were duplicates of books already in the library; these duplicates were for the most part turned over to the library of the Detroit Medical College. The present plan is to collect all the books on medicine and cognate subjects in convenient alcoves of the new reference-room and devote a suitable portion of the floor-space of that department to a medical reading-room. Current medical periodicals will be placed on the tables here and made available, as they could not be in the general public reading-rooms. Something might also be done toward preparing an analytical index of the medical literature thus collected.

The circulation of library-books through the public schools proved so popular that the number of books for this special purpose has been greatly increased and their use extended to children in the fourth-grade classes. "There are now 4700 library-books in the school-circulating libraries. No records of their use have hitherto been kept. But at the opening of the school year in September last a system was put in operation by which statistics of their use will

be preserved. There are in the central high school 2500 library-books which are retained at the school for the exclusive use of the pupils."

A case testing the library rules regarding the sureties and fines for overdue books was settled in one of the city courts on Feb. 24, in favor of the library. The defendant was Isaac Crawford, surety for Lilly Boucher, a minor, who failed to return a book to the library. The decision was that Crawford should pay \$4.50 damages and \$3 costs for the book, which originally cost \$1.

Helena (Mont.) City L. (2d rpt.) As it has been decided by the trustees that hereafter the library year shall correspond with the calendar year, this report covers the period of nine months only, from April to December, 1895. Added 1375; total 16,479. Issued, home use 48,937 (fict. 77%); new registration 521; borrowers' cards in use 4873.

"The library has still to face the condition of a yearly increasing work and opportunity and a yearly decreasing revenue. The money for its support, which is derived from an annual tax of one-half mill on the dollar of all taxable property in the city, grows less on account of the reduction of the assessed valuation. This revenue has now become so inadequate that, with this resource only, I am unable to see how even the present degree of library efficiency can longer be maintained. The year now closing up has been one of struggle to keep up the routine work of the library."

During the year copies of the leading magazines were put in circulation and have been constantly used. There has been an increase of over 11% in the issue for home use and of fully 20% in reference and news room use. The library urgently needs more room, more books—juveniles and reference especially—a new catalog, and closer co-operation with the schools. "The place where improvement is being made is evidently among the young people. We feel that our efforts for them are producing good results. The field for these efforts is unlimited. There is opportunity to do more and more for the young just as fast as the necessary means can be provided. More books and more copies are needed. And there is especial need to provide for more personal help and guidance."

Hoboken (N. J.) P. L. The corner-stone of the new library building was laid on April 20 with simple ceremonies in the presence of the city officials, the library board, and a few invited guests. The copper box was placed beneath the stone by Mrs. Martha B. Stevens, representing the Stevens family, whose gift of \$26,000 was the nucleus of the building fund. The plans for the building have been previously noted in these columns. (L. J. 20: 323.)

Homestead, Pa. Active work was begun on April 20 on the new library and club-house to be presented to the town by Andrew Carnegie.

The library is not expected to be completed in less than a year and a half, and its estimated cost is \$500,000. The site chosen is

just outside the town limits on the old city farm property. The plans, which were recently completed, call for a stone building, two stories high, with several towers and decorations; it will contain the library and club-house, having billiard and pool rooms, swimming-pool, gymnasium, etc.

Iowa libraries. Advance sheets of the report on Iowa libraries for 1895, as it will appear in the Iowa "Official register" for 1896, give information as to libraries in the state as follows, according to the "Iowa library column" of the Fort Dodge (Ia.) *Daily Capitol*: Only one free library has been established in the state during the year. 157 libraries show an increase over last year's report of 49,202 v., and the total number of volumes in libraries in the state is given as 595,752, classified as follows: 16 state institutions, with 95,730 v.; 31 college or university libraries, with 171,736 v.; 25 free public libraries, with 117,264 v.; 25 subscription libraries, with 84,692 v.; 13 academic libraries, with 21,680 v.; 31 school libraries, with 29,870 v., and six miscellaneous libraries, with 74,780 v.

A comparison of the free with the subscription libraries shows that 25 free libraries having 117,264 v. (two not reporting) have circulated 427,623 v., while 25 subscription libraries having 84,692 v. (15 making no report as to circulation) have circulated 62,918 v.

Ithaca, N. Y. Cornell Univ. L. The library has secured the fine collection of books on South America gathered mainly during his eight years' residence in Brazil by a former Cornell student, Herbert H. Smith, known in the scientific world as an explorer and an entomological collector, and the author of one of the leading modern works on the natural and sociological features of Brazil. The collection numbers about 700 volumes and 800 pamphlets, including many sets of periodicals and valuable pamphlets published in South America.

Johns Hopkins Univ., Baltimore. The library of the late Prof. Augustus Dillman, of the University of Berlin, was formally presented to the Johns Hopkins University on April 25 by Mr. G. W. Gail, of Baltimore. The library was purchased last summer by Prof. Haupt, of the university, who had been commissioned by Mr. Gail. (See L. J. 20:357.) It consists of 5000 v. especially devoted to Biblical criticism and Oriental languages.

Mr. Leopold Strouse, of Baltimore, has presented \$600 to the department of Oriental languages for the purchase of books, which will form the beginning of a library of rabbinical literature. "It is understood that this sum is the first of a series of similar annual gifts from the same donor."

Malden (Mass.) P. L. (13th rpt. — year ending Dec. 31, '95.) Added 2289; total 26,775. Issued, home use 98,658 (fict. 75,648); lib. use 7592. New registration 1240; cards in use 7464. Receipts \$10,944.17; expenses \$9906.69.

"The Sunday opening of the reading-room and art gallery has continued during the year with varying results; but it cannot be considered to have gained in popularity during that time. Though not entirely a failure, it is still far from being a gratifying success."

The two-book system has been successfully introduced.

Massachusetts State L., Boston. Added 4175; pm. 3202; spent for books \$5905.55.

p. 12-237 are devoted to the 16th annual supplement to the general catalog, including additions for the year ending Sept. 30, 1885.

Medford (Mass.) P. L. (Rpt. — year ending Jan. 31, '96.) Added 968; total 17,184. Issued 52,985. Receipts \$5215.27; expenses \$5214.63.

"We have furnished to six of the schools a carefully selected collection of books, which are retained for the use of such scholars as may desire them for home reading. They are given into the hands of one of the pupils who thus acts as librarian, keeping a record of the number of times the books go out, together with the names of the borrowers. Each month the books are returned to the library and a new set sent in their place. Under this system we find there is a greater call for books of the better class among the young people; often one child recommends to another a book he has taken from the schools; this one applies for it after it has been returned to the library; thus, unconsciously, the missionary work is carried on."

Miss Sargent makes an earnest showing of the need for "more rooms, better ventilation, and better sanitary conditions," and describes with emphasis the many shifts and discomforts which the present cramped and inadequate quarters entail.

Menasha (Wis.) L. A. A public subscription has been started for a new library building; over \$1000 is already subscribed.

Milford, Ct. Taylor L. The first report of the library, submitted to the Connecticut Public Library Committee, gives a short account of its history since 1893, when it was incorporated with 21 incorporators. The library originated in an offer from Henry A. Taylor to erect a library building to cost \$25,000, provided the town would furnish a site and an annual appropriation of \$1000 for 50 years. The offer was at once accepted, \$4000 was voted for the purchase of ground, the building was completed in January, 1895, and dedicated on February 2, 1895. When completed the library had no books, nor was there a book fund; the first volumes received were about 400 from the Milford Lyceum, \$200 worth were given by the state, and other volumes were given by friends until the present total of 7000 v. was reached. The library is open each week day, from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m.; Sunday opening was tried, but discontinued, as it did not seem needed. The reading-room is supplied with about 30 periodicals and has a daily average of about 75 visitors. There are now about 1000 card-holders

out of a population of 4000, and the circulation varies from 2000 to 3000 monthly. An author catalog is now going through the press, which will be sold at 25 c. a copy.

Milwaukee (Wis.) P. L. On April 15 Carl Marr's painting "The flagellants" was presented to the city by Mrs. Emil Schandeln. It will be hung in the art-room of the new library building.

Minneapolis (Minn.) P. L. (6th rpt.—year ending Dec. 31, '95.) Added 11,197; total 83,531. Issued, home use 450,588 (fict. 49.52 %; juv. 16.61 %), of which nearly 50 % were issued through the eight delivery stations, and nearly 7000 circulated through the public schools; no record of lib. use is kept. New registration 10,500; total registration 26,950. Receipts, \$61,951.47; expenses \$48,650.30.

"As to the unaccountable injury to and loss of books, we still suffer, though certainly to no greater extent than heretofore. From May to November the *Kindergarten Magazine* was regularly stolen. For a number of weeks the pages containing the missionary intelligence were regularly torn out of the *Congregationalist*, making it necessary to take that paper from the rack, and issue it only upon application. *Harper's Bazar* is sometimes stolen. Nothing of great value, however, has been stolen or mutilated."

Dr. Hosmer devotes the greater part of his report to a review of the system of free access which has been in operation in the library for six years. He describes the methods used in Minneapolis, and summarizes the chief advantages and disadvantages of the system, but finds the former predominant. "In summing up," he concludes, "it may be said that in the library world a tendency exists towards allowing to readers a freer access to the books than was once the fashion; that while in some cases this increased freedom has involved heavy damage and loss, in a larger number of cases damage and loss have been slight, largely outweighed by the advantages that attend the practice; that the majority of librarians favor increased freedom, differing widely, however, as to the amount of restriction expedient. Experience seems to show clearly that free access is the proper policy for us."

At a meeting of the board of trustees on March 6, 1896, it was decided to make a general reduction of the library salary list. The list as reduced was put at once in effect; it makes the salary of the librarian \$2500 instead of \$3000, and effects a reduction of from \$5 to \$10 monthly in the salaries of most of the other members of the staff. The total saving effected by the measure is \$2300.

A fine collection of incunabula and early examples of printing has been deposited in the library by W. C. Baker, of Grand Rapids, Mich. It is to be known as the Baker incunabula collection and has been deposited with the library for a term of 10 years, under a signed agreement; it is to be kept in a locked case and may be consulted only under the personal supervision of the librarian or some member of the staff.

Nashville, Tenn. Howard L. Early in April the incorporators of the Howard Library announced that unless sufficient money was promptly raised for its maintenance the library would be obliged to close; the date for closing was later extended to May 1, to permit of public action being taken. Public subscription lists were promptly started and by April 30 several hundred dollars had been raised.

New Bedford (Mass.) P. L. At a trustees' meeting, held April 1, reports were submitted as to the need of alteration and enlargement of the library building, if not of a new building. It is desired to give the public access to the stacks, and to do this general rearrangement will be necessary. Various methods were suggested and discussed, and finally a committee on conference was appointed to further consider the matter. The cataloging of the library is being pushed forward, and L. Nelson Nichols, formerly of Cornell University Library, has been engaged to assist in the work.

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE L., April, 1896. Concord, 1896. 18 p. T.

"This little book is issued by the trustees in the desire that citizens may be better informed of the scope of the state library, and that the policy of the trustees with reference to its development and use may be generally known and understood." The library is not wholly a law library; out of its 50,000 v. only about 15,000 are law-books, and both the law collection and the miscellaneous collection are freely open for reference use by the public. This pamphlet covers separately the law library, the miscellaneous library, rules and regulations, and conveniences; full directions are given for finding books on the shelves, free access being allowed in both departments, and a review of the scope of the two departments is included.

"About April 1, 1896, work will be begun on a comprehensive subject, author, and title card-catalog of the miscellaneous library." This collection the trustees propose to systematically extend and strengthen, making it especially full on special topics of importance, as religion, medicine, education, agriculture, etc., while eschewing "popular" literature which may be freely had in public libraries.

No books are loaned from the law library save in special cases, under special agreement; but "on and after July 1, 1896, any book in the miscellaneous library will be sent upon request to any public library in the state for a period not exceeding one week, express charges both ways to be paid by the borrower." The public library in turn may loan out the book to any reputable citizen under its own rules and regulations, the borrowing library being responsible for the book loaned, and it in turn looking to the private borrower for redress in case of injury or loss. "Under this plan a person desiring to consult a book in this library has only to go to the library in his town and make application therefor, paying the cost of getting the book and returning it."

New Haven (Ct.) F. P. L. (Rpt.—year ending Sept. 30, 1895.) Added 2765; total 29,906; circulation 232,014 (fiction, adult and juv. 70.1 %); borrowers 11,600. Expenses \$16,106; income \$16,054.

During the year a separate reference-room was opened and the periodical reading-room was made larger. A separate juvenile department was also opened. All the shelves of the library were thrown open to the public about July 1. The circulation increased 29% the first month, but the rate of increase decreased in later months.

New London (Ct.) P. L. (5th rpt.) Added 1429; total 15,546; lost 4. Issued, home use 70,735; ref. use 2646. New registration 462; total registration 4312.

New Orleans (La.) F. P. L. On April 7 an ordinance was introduced into the city council providing for the consolidation of the Fisk Free Library, now in the Tulane building, on Dryades street, with the library in the city hall, the same to be known as the Free Public Library of the City of New Orleans, and to be housed in the renovated library building at Lafayette and Camp streets, formerly the home of the old Criminal Court. The library is to be conducted by a board of seven directors, appointed by the mayor, who, on the expiration of their terms of active service, shall become life members. The mayor is ex-officio chairman of the board, and its rulings are subject to his approval. The directors were appointed by the mayor on April 21, as follows: Frank T. Howard, Sidney March, Albert Baldwin, Jr., P. A. Lelong, Frederick Ernst, E. B. Kruttschnitt, and G. W. Flynn, the latter holding the position of secretary.

New York. SHALL NEW YORK HAVE A GREAT MEDICAL LIBRARY? (Editorial in *Medical Record*, Ap. 25.) 2 col.

The New York Academy of Medicine has appealed to the public for an endowment fund of \$100,000 for its library. The library now contains 45,000 volumes; and "it should be impossible for any person to seek in vain for an original article on any medical or allied subject in the Academy's library."

New York. Aguilar F. L. A Harlem branch of the library was opened on April 24 at 176 E. 110th street, and was visited by a number of teachers and principals of the schools in the neighborhood, who had been invited to examine the books and arrangements. The branch starts work with 2500 v. on the shelves.

New York F. C. L. A public meeting was held at Chickering Hall, New York, on April 11, for the purpose of arousing more general public interest in the support and welfare of the library. Mayor Strong presided, and on the platform were Andrew Carnegie, Jacob H. Schiff, ex-Judge H. E. Howland, W. Bourke Cockran, and others. The opening address, by ex-Judge Howland, described the history of the

library from its foundation in 1880, and compared the library situation in New York with that in other leading cities. What was particularly desired was to provide for the establishment of at least 10 more branches in certain districts. The libraries already in existence have more than proved their usefulness, and a considerable extension of the scope of the work is much needed. Among the other speakers who set forth the needs of the library and its claims on the city and the public were Andrew Carnegie, W. Bourke Cockran, and J. L. Cadwalader.

One of the immediate results of the meeting has been a general awakening of interest in the subject. Most of the papers have set forth at length the opinions of representative citizens as to library provision for New York. The *Commercial Advertiser* of April 18 quoted at length the views of Judge H. E. Howland, one of the board of managers of the Free Circulating Library. He believed that the ideal library system for New York would consist of one large central library with at least 20 branches, including the six libraries of the Free Circulating system and the four of the Aguilar Society. If the city should grant a site for the great consolidated library, he thought it should make the operation of branches and the circulation of books a condition of the gift. Dr. Henry Van Dyke, W. T. Peoples, Prof. George Gunton, and Superintendent of Schools Jasper all expressed their belief in the necessity of many branches. The *New York Sun* strongly approves Judge Howland's proposition, but opposes the use of the reservoir site and the erection of a costly building.

New York. Maimonides L. (Rpt.—year ending Dec. 31, '95.) Added 1383; total 44,803. Issued, home use 94,328; ref. use 35,537; per cent. of fiction, 49. Card-holders (under new registry) 1747.

A printed catalog is much needed.

New York P. L.—Astor, Lenox, and Tilden foundations. The bill authorizing the removal of the reservoir on Fifth avenue and 42d street and allowing the use of the site by the Public Library, passed the Assembly on April 16, and the Senate on April 29. The bill is aimed to give the city authorities the right to apportion the site of the reservoir to the uses of the trustees of the library. It is very short, and is not mandatory, but only permissive, simply allowing the use of the site by the library should the city decide to give it.

A valuable collection of books relating to American history and genealogy has been secured by the Lenox Library for the new consolidated library. It consists of about 3700 v. and was purchased from a private collector in Washington.

New York State L. According to the secretary's report of the work accomplished by the university in 1894 (Regents' bulletin, no. 34), the use of all departments of the library is steadily growing, that of the capitol library alone having increased 568 %. Total additions were 19,150, excluding 2555 duplicates and 8175 v. added to the travelling libraries.

Mr. Dewey says: "The duplicate division, of which the plan has been so highly commended, is practically not in operation because our nearly 125,000 duplicates are mostly piled in inaccessible heaps and no work worthy of the name can be done till shelving is provided on the fifth floor. I recommend as the most important thing for the state library a strenuous effort to secure this needed shelving, so that this great collection may be protected from farther injury and may be distributed where the books will be of great utility to the taxpayers instead of being a positive nuisance, as they are in their present condition."

Newton (Mass.) F. L. (Rpt. — year ending Dec. 31, '95.) Added 2193; total 48,948. Issued, home use 164,341 (fict. 55.80%); no record of ref. use. Registration 5963. Receipts \$13,293.24; expenses \$13,288.06; West Newton branch, receipts \$1538.10; expenses \$1538.10.

"More than half the books have been distributed through the 10 agencies. The plan of allowing two cards to each person has proved a success."

Norristown (Pa.) L. Co. The 100th anniversary of the Norristown Library Company was celebrated on April 21. The exercises were held in the court-house, and were presided over by Rev. A. J. Weddell, pastor emeritus of the Lutheran Church of the Trinity. Addresses were made by Judge H. K. Weand, Hon. I. P. Wanger, Rev. Isaac Gibson, and a sketch of the library was read by the secretary of the association, William McDermott. The library company was organized with 12 incorporators, on April 30, 1796, but did not come into official existence until March 31, 1836. In 1859 an entire new constitution and by-laws were adopted; in this year the library contained 3121 v. In 1865 an act was passed exempting the library from taxes, save those due the state. The present building, which was erected by subscription in 1859, cost about \$2000; the property was valued at \$10,000 in 1878, and is now worth about \$15,000. The library now contains about 8000 v. Shares of stock in the association are \$5, and membership dues \$2 annually. It is hoped that a way will be found to open the library freely to the public in the near future.

Ohio State L. Commission. On April 22 the legislature passed the bill providing for a state library commission, with the house amendments, in which the senate concurred. This bill, which was introduced by Senator Garfield, authorizes the governor to appoint three library commissioners, to serve for two, four, and six years. They are to serve without compensation, but are given \$1000 for travelling expenses and clerk hire. They, with the approval of the governor, shall appoint the state librarian, who is required to give a \$10,000 bond; they shall have charge of the distribution and sale of public documents, including the reports of the supreme court, and may appoint a sales agent, and they are authorized to extend the use of the state library and furnish

advice and help to all public libraries in the state.

The bill encountered strong opposition, having centre in various political motives, but was finally passed by both houses. The avowed purpose of it is to take the state library out of politics and to extend its usefulness. Among librarians it is hoped that there will now be a strong central body for the dissemination of the principles of library science and organization throughout the state, and that judicious encouragement will be given for the founding and extension of public libraries, and also that eventually there will be a complete system of travelling libraries for Ohio.

Though introduced by Senator Garfield, the author of the bill is generally understood to be Rutherford P. Hayes, of Fremont, Ohio. It was also strongly seconded on the outside by the efforts of Mr. W. H. Brett and Mr. Orr, of Cleveland, and by Mr. Frank Conover, of the Dayton Library board, who is chairman of the committee on legislation of the Ohio Library Association.

On April 24 Governor Bushnell appointed the members of the commission, as follows: Rutherford P. Hayes, of Columbus, six years; J. F. McGrew, four years; and C. A. Reynolds, of Zanesville, two years. On April 30 the board met and organized, electing C. A. Reynolds president and R. P. Hayes temporary secretary. The law provides that the state librarian shall be permanent secretary, and this post will therefore be filled by Prof. Galbreath, who has been appointed to that office.

Oshkosh (Wis.) P. L. The library was opened to the public on April 1, and on the first day 45 books were issued and 53 persons applied for borrowers' cards. Work begins with 6000 v. There is a bequest of \$50,000 awaiting it as soon as the city raises an equal amount.

Passaic (N. J.) P. L. By introducing a catalog of the library in every school in the city, the circulation has been largely increased and many children have been brought to use the library for reference.

Pekin (Ill.) L. A. The association has offered to transfer its library to the city, provided it be made a free library and given municipal support.

Peoria (Ill.) P. L. The new library building is rapidly nearing completion and will, it is thought, be ready for dedication on July 4. The contract for the interior decorations has been closed, and the finishing work is now in progress.

Philadelphia L. Co. On April 20 the library received from Prof. A. G. Emerick, of Tioga, the gift of his collection of music and musical literature, which includes a large number of musical scores, oratorios, cantatas, operas, etc., and several hundred volumes of works about music. This gift, supplemented by the large collections on the subject given to the library by Mrs. Dr. Rush and Miss Anne H. Brewster,

will make the Philadelphia Library especially useful to all lovers or students of music and musical literature.

Philadelphia City Institute F. L. Added 1495; total 19,379. Issued 57,317; no. visitors 82,694. Receipts \$6288.09; expenses \$5169.48.

"Owing to the successful organization of free libraries by the city authorities in different parts of the city in the last few years, and more particularly since the same have come under the control of 'The Philadelphia Free Library,' a number of our readers have been drawn from us to the libraries nearer their homes, and in consequence our average daily attendance and number of books loaned has fallen off; but our loss in the respects named is the gain of those for whom our institute was founded, and we therefore rejoice in the organizing of every new library."

Philadelphia Mercantile L. (73d rpt. — year ending Dec. 30, '95.) Added 2083; total 176,981. Issued, home use 77,617; visits 285,408. Membership not given. Receipts \$27,243.19; expenses \$27,172.47.

In January, 1895, the membership fee was reduced to \$2, in the hope of increasing the use of the library — a hope that does not seem to have been greatly justified. During the year the library was partially closed for six weeks, pending alterations and repairs which have much improved the building. Early in 1895 the directors offered to make the library free and place it partially under city authority, maintaining, however, controlling power, in return for its maintenance by the city. An ordinance covering this proposal was submitted to the city councils, but owing to the restrictions imposed it failed to become a law.

Portland (Ore.) L. A. (2d rpt. — year ending Dec. 31, '95.) Added 1752; total 22,971; issued 24,935 (fict. 70.9 %). Receipts, general fund \$3770.75; expenses \$5430.60, leaving a deficit of \$1659.94; book fund receipts \$1994.22; expenses \$2057.32, leaving a deficit of \$63.10.

The president of the association says: "It will be evident that what is needed to put the association on a sound basis financially is a contribution sufficient to represent the depreciation in the real estate from the inventoried value, and retire the bills payable, relieving the association from the payment of interest. If this is not now practicable, then provision must be made for the present deficiency in the running expense and interest, now amounting to nearly \$9000; and provision must also be made for the interest charge for the coming year, deferring any attempt to make up the principal until more auspicious times. An effort was made early in 1895 to provide for the deficiency then existing, and the deficiency during the year past. An attempt was made to provide \$10,000, but it was not successful, only a small portion having been subscribed. I am not altogether without hope that the subscriptions may still be increased to a considerable amount. If, however, this is not done, the association will be more and more

embarrassed as time goes on and interest accumulates." He states that retrenchment of expenses is necessary.

Providence (R. I.) P. L. The communication from Mr. Foster, printed elsewhere, disposes of the criticisms on the issue of fiction from his library, made by Mr. S. S. Rider in his periodical *Book Notes*, and noted in the April JOURNAL. In the Providence Library *Monthly Bulletin* for March the subject is given detailed attention, especially in the details of the library's classification. The battle is renewed by Mr. Rider in *Book Notes* for May 2, in which he attempts to prove that the circulation statistics of the library are "manipulated" with intent to deceive, and that the classification now in use is not the one originally adopted. To do this he prints in "deadly parallel" columns the classification given in the first library report and, presumably, that in the last report, and proves them to be materially different, the first showing numerical classes from 0 to 9, the second classes from 1 to 11. The reader seeing "9" opposite "Art" in the first column will naturally glance at the other column where "9" is opposite "Natural science," and will decide at once that the classification has been materially changed. Unfortunately for this proof, however, the second column is not a list of classes in the order of class numbers at all. It is simply an enumeration, from p. 26 of the 17th report, of the rank of circulation of the various classes of books, the highest ("1. Fiction, adult and juvenile") at the top and the lowest at the bottom. The "9" opposite "Natural science" means only that it is ninth in order of circulation, but its class-number, 6, is still unchanged. The error would be amusing were it not unfortunate that it is made in support of unfounded and injurious charges.

Ratleigh, N. C. A public subscription has been started toward the organization of a public library, and over \$2500 has been raised for the purpose.

Randolph, Mass. Turner F. L. Added 353; total 12,749. Issued, home use 18,378; lib. use 3700; issued on teachers' cards 286. Receipts \$1597; expenses \$1499.88.

Saginaw (Mich.) P. L. On April 15 an incendiary fire broke out in the Central School Building, in which the Public Library occupied the east wing of the first floor. The building was almost entirely destroyed. Of the 9000 v. in the library, which were valued at about \$5000, all were badly damaged by fire and water and most will be a total loss. A few can probably be rebound and used.

St. Augustine (Fla.) F. P. L. The library has removed from its old quarters in the government building to its new building on Hospital street, given for the purpose by Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Wilson. The library-rooms are on the second and third floors, the first being devoted to the museum and assembly-room of the local Scientific and Literary Association. The library de-

partment consists of a delivery-room, 20 x 50, on the second floor, the south end of which is fitted up as a reading-room; the third floor is given up to the storage of surplus papers, magazines, etc.

St. Johns, Mich. Ladies' L. A. Added 112; total 2615. Issued 3574. New members 14; total membership 124. Receipts \$276.59; expenses \$225.44.

St. Joseph (Mo.) P. L. At the April election a majority vote was polled in favor of the proposition to increase the library appropriation from three-tenths mill to one mill, the limit allowed by state law. This will give the library an annual income of \$23,500.

St. Louis (Mo.) P. L. In a civil service examination held recently, in which 80 persons from all parts of the United States participated, only five succeeded in passing. Three of these were assistant catalogers in the St. Louis Public Library. At the same time an examination for the position of catalog clerk in the State Department was tried successfully by a fourth assistant in the library. The four St. Louis young women who passed were Miss Irene Gibson, Miss Florence P. Chase, Miss Nellie McCreary, and Miss Alice Fichtenkam. Misses Chase and Gibson made the highest grades, and they have been tendered and have accepted positions in the Public Documents department at Washington. The other two young women's names have been placed on the accepted civil service lists and they will be given positions in the department when the first vacancies occur.

St. Paul (Minn.) P. L. (14th rpt.—year ending Dec. 31, '95.) Added 3164; total 40,773. Issued, home use 186,336 (fict. 42.12%, juv. 29.37%); lib. use 54,829. New registration 4891; total registration 10,471. Receipts \$17,944.42; expenses \$15,019.53.

The directors devote the greater part of their report to an analysis of the circulation of fiction.

A St. Paul Library Association was formed in April for the purpose of promoting the interests of the library and, if possible, obtaining a new building. Several meetings have been held and a considerable membership secured.

St. Peter, Minn. On April 16 at a meeting of the city council the library established by the Woman's Literary Club and tendered to the city was formally accepted and a library board of nine members was appointed.

San Francisco (Cal.) F. P. L. (Rpt.—year ending June 30, '95.) Added 4617; total 78,517. Circulation 421,455, of which 40,414 were for ref. use (fict. 32.37%). No. card-holders 16,411. Receipts \$42,091.86; expenses \$39,431.14.

Of the total circulation of 421,455, 99,022 were delivered through the four branch libraries. "The cataloging of current accessions has kept pace with their receipt, and such time as could be spared has been devoted to the insertion of titles from the old printed

catalogs in the Rudolph indexers. When this work is completed, the library will be cataloged in a continuous alphabet possessing the flexibility of the card system and with many advantages over that system. The number of persons, however, enabled to use the catalog simultaneously is limited to the number of machines; hence, with borrowers constantly increasing in number, it will not do to rely solely upon the indexers as the means for exhibiting the library's contents. Moreover, by the time the entries from the old catalogs are inserted, the limit of the capacity of the indexers will nearly have been reached."

San Francisco, Cal. Mechanics' Institute L. (41st rpt.—year ending Feb. 29, '96.) Added 3475; total 70,818. Issued, home use 185,875 (fict. and juv. 145,456); no record of lib. use is kept. New membership, net gain, 244; total membership 4709. Receipts \$29,056.71; expenses \$23,945.40.

The president says: "The institute has always allowed its members to have free access to its books, and while there are losses due to theft, carelessness, and mutilation, there are gains from this free access, which has always been valued and esteemed by members, and by its freedom creates a membership that would not exist. That this privilege involves some loss is true, and during the five years from 1891 to 1895, inclusive, that loss amounted to 2254 volumes, or say 37 volumes per month. It is nevertheless the opinion that it would be unprofitable to make any change in the method we have so long pursued. This loss of books, however, at an average of 75 cents per volume, amounts to \$1690.58."

During the year the reading-room was removed from the third floor to the basement.

Somerville (Mass.) P. L. (23d rpt.) Added 4010; total 31,739. Issued, home use 68,231. Receipts \$9426.83; expenses \$9306.49.

The year has been a notable one in the history of the library, as it has been marked by the alteration of the book-room, the erection of a fine new book-stack, the reclassification of the library, and the issue of a complete finding-list. All these innovations are fully described by Librarian Hayes, who gives also a historical sketch of the library. The library was closed for four months during alterations.

"The East Somerville agency was discontinued April 15, and the agency at West Somerville June 1; neither of them have been reopened, but instead, the eight large grammar schools will be made distributing centres."

Southbridge (Mass.) P. L. (Rpt.—year ending March 1, '96.) Added 419; total 15,921. Issued, home use 19,752 (fict. 42.54%, juv. 19.98%). New registration 214; total registration 3169.

During the year the age limit was withdrawn, and books are now issued to any child able to write his name. The library is being reclassified. A list of the year's accessions is appended.

Sparrow's Point (Md.) F. L. This library, open three evenings a week, has been circulat-

ing from 35 to 60 volumes each evening the first two months of its existence. Much interest is manifested in the movement. A book reception will be held in May to increase interest and the number of books. Several hundred books have also been donated by the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Taunton (Mass.) P. L. (30th rpt.) Added 1898; total 40,540. Issued, home use 73,009 (fict. 42,571); lost and paid for 5. New registration 413; total registration ("nominal") 13,277. Receipts and expenses \$6852.19.

University of Virginia. Prof. Thomas R. Price announces that he has secured the Hertz library of Greek and Latin philology as the New York gift to the University of Virginia. The collection numbers over 12,000 v., and will go into the new library building, the restored rotunda.

West Haven, Ct. A public meeting was held on April 24 for the purpose of starting a general subscription towards establishing a free public library. The sum of \$1000 is desired for the purpose, and it is thought that this will be obtained.

West Springfield (Mass.) P. L. The "two-book" system was put in operation late in April. Its adoption is explained in the following notice, issued by the trustees: "At the annual meeting of the town the income of the library was reduced \$225, which means 200 less new books for the coming year. For this reason the trustees have adopted the method of one of the best libraries of this vicinity for the drawing of new fiction."

Westport, Mo. On April 16 the school district of Westport — which is a suburb of Kansas City — received from the county court the sum of \$7314. The sum, which had been long in litigation, is the surplus of a special tax levied a number of years ago to pay for the construction of a horse-car line to Kansas City. The money is to be used for the establishment of a library in Westport. It is proposed to spend about \$5000 on a building and devote the remainder to its fitting and administration.

FOREIGN.

Battersea (Eng.) P. Ls. (9th rpt. — 10 months only.) Added 1400; total 35,860. Issued 227,762 (ref. use 17,996). Total registration 7483. Receipts £4391.14.7; expenses £4057.1.8.

With the close of the period covered by this report (June 1, 1895 — March 25, 1896) the control of the library is transferred from the board of commissioners to the charge of the vestry of the parish of St. Mary. A short history of the library is given.

Birmingham (Eng.) L. (Rpt.) Added 1241; total not given. Receipts £2200.19.3; expenses £2222.9.3. There are 812 "proprietors."

"It was generally anticipated that electric light would prove to be more costly than gas, and in the librarian's report issued last year the increase was estimated at £20. The actual

cost of the light for the past year, including repairs and the renewal of lamps, has been £75.9.9, as against £77.3.9 for gas and fittings for 1893, the last complete year during which gas was continuously used."

Brussels, Office International de Bibliographie. The royal decree, issued by Leopold II., King of the Belgians, in September, 1895, formally authorizing and creating the Office International de Bibliographie, is given in the *Centralblatt* for April. "The office was established in Brussels in 1894, and its first conference was noted in the *JOURNAL* for October, 1895.

Montreal, Can. McGill Univ. L. The university has published a handsome pamphlet, devoted to the library, and containing a memorial of its founder, Peter Redpath. It is illustrated with fine views of the interior and exterior of the building, and with portraits of Mr. Redpath, members of the university faculty, and others prominent in the establishment of the library. In November, 1891, Mr. Redpath offered to erect the building on a selected site given to the university by J. H. R. Molson, and costing about \$50,000. Work was soon begun and rapidly carried forward, and on October 31, 1893, the library building was dedicated, in the presence of a large audience, the Governor-General of Canada presiding. The building is described at some length by the architect. The fire-proof stack-room, of four stories, is fitted with an elevator for books, and on each floor a wide bay-window affords a pleasant study alcove. The basement, which is entirely above ground, contains five seminar or study rooms, a book-receiving room, and an unpacking-room, which connects by stair and elevator with the cataloging-room directly above; the rest of the basement is devoted to lavatories, caretaker's rooms, heating apparatus, etc. On the main floor is the great reading-room, 110 x 43, and 44 feet high, beautifully fitted with wide fireplace, recessed windows, and ornamental details. At one end is a gallery for the display of rare books or mss.; below this are the librarian's room and cataloging-room, separated by glass partitions from the reading-room. The rest of the floor is given up to a periodical-room and cloak-rooms. There are two beautiful stained-glass windows, and the general plan of decoration is rich and harmonious. The building is lighted by electricity and heated by hot water on the direct-radiation system. The library contains about 55,000 v., of which 20,000 are distributed as department libraries in the several university buildings. Besides giving the library building, Mr. Redpath gave a yearly sum of \$5000 toward the expenses of administration, etc.

PRACTICAL NOTES.

A NEW LIBRARY PEST. — There is a new library pest, a devourer of books, and it is called the *Nicobium hirtum* — the latter scientific name indicative, probably, of how it can injure books. It belongs to the coleopterous family. The larvæ are the troublesome ones, and at-

tack particularly the soft paper found in old volumes. These larvæ have clinging powers, and when shaken off a book may crawl up from the ground and again seek their literary pastures. The larvæ develop into beetles from 0.12 to 0.16 of an inch in length. On the backs of these beetles there are bands which distinguish them from other book-pests. We are indebted to southern Europe for the *Nicobium hirtum*. The damage it has done has been in libraries in the Southern States.—*New York Times*.

REVOLVING BOOKCASE.—Described in Official Gazette of the U. S. Patent Office, April 28, 75:602. $\frac{1}{2}$ col. il.

This case revolves on balls, "said balls forming bearings for the case and base."

Gifts and Bequests.

Boulder, Col. The state preparatory school of the University of Colorado received on April 17 the sum of \$1000 for the founding of a library.

Easthampton (Mass.) P. L. A. By the will of the late Mrs. Emeline R. Warner, practically all her estate, valued at about \$21,000, is bequeathed to the library association as a trust fund, to be known as the "Levi Warner and Emeline R. Warner trust fund."

Fairfield, Ct. Frederick Sturges, of Fairfield, recently came into possession of a fine piece of property, the site of the St. Marc's Hotel. It is his intention to pull down the hotel and erect in its place a public library building.

Loda, Ill. The town has received from Mrs. A. H. Smith the sum of \$2500 for the erection of a public library building; A. Goodell, of Loda, has also given \$1000 toward the library, to be used as an endowment fund for maintenance. The local literary society has 700 v. as a nucleus for the library.

North Adams (Mass.) P. L. On April 6 Mayor A. C. Houghton presented to the city a building for the library, to be a memorial to his brother, Andrew J. Houghton, of Boston. The property thus given to the city is known as the Blackinton mansion, it is valued at \$125,000, and is one of the finest and most desirable residences in the city. It is on a central site, is three stories high, and is built of brick with brown-stone trimmings. It is about 80 feet wide by 100 feet deep, and contains 30 rooms. The interior decorations are very rich, and it is thought that with some alterations it will make a fine library building. Mayor Houghton, in his letter conveying the property, states that it is to be used "solely for a public library and reading and historical rooms."

Philadelphia F. L. On April 7 the Supreme Court rendered a decision in favor of the library, regarding a bequest made by Robert G. White, reversing the ruling of the Orphans'

Court. Mr. White willed \$2000 to the Presbyterian Orphanage, \$2000 to the Presbyterian Home for Widows and Single Women, and \$100 to the Indigent Widows' and Single Women's Society, with the proviso that if they encouraged or advocated prohibition or local option the bequests were to go to the Free Library. The Orphans' Court ruled that the charities named had not incurred the penalty of inhibition, and awarded the bequests to them. The Supreme Court, however, decides that there can be no doubt that the managers of the institutions mentioned are opposed to the liquor traffic, as are many of the members of the church and one-third of the voters of the commonwealth. The bequests, therefore, go to the library.

Plainfield (N. J.) P. L. J. Herbert Johnston, of New York City, offered on April 8 to give to the library the valuable collection of rare coins owned by his father, the late J. Taylor Johnston, president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The collection is valued at several thousand dollars, and the only condition imposed is that it be given a proper and safe place for exhibition.

Princeton, N. J. College of New Jersey. It is reported that a new library building will be given to the college by a friend whose name is withheld for the present; it is to cost from \$300,000 to \$500,000.

Yale Univ. L., New Haven. The library has received a gift of \$1500 as a class of 1897 fund, derived from the profits of this year's junior promenade.

Librarians.

ALLEN, Miss Letitia S., for seven years assistant librarian in the Pawtucket Free Public Library, has resigned her position to accept that of librarian of the Public Library of Attleboro, Mass.

BABINE, Alexis V., has been appointed librarian of the Indiana University Library, at Bloomington, Ind., the appointment to take effect August 1, 1896. Mr. Babine is a Russian by birth, but has been in the United States for seven years. He was for some time a student in the University of St. Petersburg, and after coming to the United States pursued his studies at Cornell University and worked in the library at the same time. He has had several years' experience in library work, and is especially proficient in languages.

BUTLER, Wentworth S., librarian of the New York Society Library, was at the recent meeting of the society retired from active duties and made librarian emeritus, after a service of 40 years. Mr. Butler, who was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1848, became temporary assistant at the Society Library in the latter part of 1855, and in the following year he superintended the removal of the library to its new building, then just completed. Soon after,

on the resignation of the librarian, John McMullen, Mr. Butler was made librarian, a position he held uninterruptedly until last month.

COPE, Mrs. Lana J., has been appointed state librarian of Iowa, succeeding Mrs. L. C. Creighton on the expiration of her three years' term. The state library of Iowa is still "in politics."

CHASE, Miss Florence, cataloger at the St. Louis Public Library, has been appointed cataloger in the Public Documents Division at Washington.

FORD, Miss Fanny, a graduate of the Pratt Institute library class of 1894, has been engaged as librarian for *McClure's Magazine*, New York.

FRISBEE, Dr. E. S., late president of Wells College, at present connected with the N. Y. State Library School, at Albany, N. Y., offers his services as a searcher of genealogical records. While studying library methods at Albany, as well as previously, he has given much attention to genealogical work, and is desirous of making a specialty of it. Correspondence is solicited. Address to the care of the N. Y. State Library, Albany, N. Y.

GALBREATH, Prof. C. B., of Rogers, O., was on April 30 appointed state librarian of Ohio, succeeding Joseph P. Smith, resigned. The appointment was made by the new state library commission and was promptly confirmed by the governor. Prof. Galbreath was born in Lisbon, O., in 1858, and has been a journalist and state school superintendent. For some years past he has been president of Mt. Hope College, at Rogers, O.

GIBSON, Miss Irene, cataloger at the St. Louis Public Library, has been appointed cataloger in the Public Documents Division at Washington. Miss Gibson, with Miss Chase, also of the St. Louis Library, passed successfully the civil service examination for the position, which was taken by 80 applicants, of whom five only passed. She studied for a year at the New York state library school and then became assistant at the Detroit Public Library, going from there to St. Louis.

HARRISON, Joseph Leroy, who on April 3 was elected librarian of the Indianapolis (Ind.) Public Library, declined that position on April 17. The reason given was the uncertainty of tenure and circumstances caused by the election of school board officers in June. As the library is controlled by the school board, a change in its membership at that time would naturally affect the administration of the library. It is unlikely that any further steps will be taken by the board toward securing a new librarian, at least until after the election. In the meantime Miss E. G. Browning continues in office, and it is probable that she will remain there.

HERRON, Miss Winifred A., of Endicott, Mass., went on May 1 to Newburyport, Mass.,

to classify and catalog the Public Library. She studied one year at the Library School.

KUMLI, Miss Bertha, for six years librarian of the Santa Rosa (Cal.) Free Public Library, was on April 8 succeeded by Mrs. J. E. Jackman. The election was conducted by the new board of library trustees, and the vote stood three for Mrs. Jackman and two for Miss Kumli. The Santa Rosa Library has not yet been lifted out of politics, but is still regarded as an "office," which should be changed as other town offices are. At a meeting of the Santa Rosa Teachers' Club, on April 9, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, We, the teachers of the Santa Rosa public schools, have learned of the retirement of Miss Bertha Kumli as librarian of the Free Public Library, and

"Whereas, The use of our Free Library has become an important and indispensable factor in education by the schools largely by her years of patient labor, intelligent attention, and sympathetic comprehension of the relation of the library to the schools, and by the use of the invaluable fund of information which her years of experience and study have given her in the knowledge of the contents of books valuable in school use and in general reading by children; therefore be it

"Resolved, In behalf of the interests of the schools, and in just recognition of the invaluable service Miss Kumli is now capable of rendering in the school use of the library, we thus express our sense of public misfortune in the retirement of an earnest, trained, and universally obliging public official. And be it further

"Resolved, As citizens desiring the best possible service in public institutions, we deplore the disregard of the principle which lies at the foundation of efficient service in public office, that capable administration is the first qualification for tenure of office, especially in those offices of which that of librarian is one, requiring special training and long experience."

TAYLOR, W. Curtis, librarian of the Tacoma (Wash.) City Library, has brought suit to annul the appointment of his successor, Herbert Bashford, who was appointed to the office on April 21 by the newly elected mayor, A. V. Fawcett. Mr. Taylor has been librarian for the past four years, and his enthusiasm and devotion to his work have been chiefly instrumental in raising the library to its present high plane of efficiency. By an oversight in framing the new city charter, which was adopted at the city election on April 7, the terms of "all city officers" were made to expire on the third Tuesday of April, 1896, a clause that includes the library within its provisions. The local press has almost unanimously supported Mr. Taylor, and urged his reappointment, and the mayor received many letters to the same effect from citizens, but the "office" was nevertheless turned over to another candidate. Mr. Taylor refused to give up his post, or to leave the library, and on April 23 brought suit against the city, the mayor, and Mr. Bashford, asking that they be restrained from interfering with the library or with his position. The suit is based on an ordinance passed in 1894, creating the library and providing the appointment of a librarian to serve for five years. As he was appointed under this ordinance Mr. Taylor claims that his term of office will not expire until January 30, 1899. The preliminary injunction granted in the suit was dissolved on April 26 and Mr. Bashford obtained possession of the library, Mr. Taylor retaining the various record books.

VAN HOEVENBERG, Miss Elizabeth, librarian of the South Orange (N. J.) Free Library, has resigned that position to become librarian of the Ferguson Library, Stamford, Ct.

WIRE, Dr. G. A., formerly of the Newberry Library, Chicago, has been engaged to re-classify the books of the Evanston (Ill.) Public Library.

Cataloging and Classification.

BOWDOIN COLLEGE L., Brunswick, Me. Bibliographical contributions, no. 5, March, 1896. p. 279-298. O.

Contains the fifth of the series of classed lists of "One hundred books," the present one covering the year 1895, and intended to be a useful guide to libraries in the selection of books. The entries are as brief as possible, and appended to each is a reference to two or more reviews in standard literary journals. Only 15 novels and juveniles are included "because along these important lines the patrons of public libraries rarely fail to make known their wishes," and thus books in other departments can be included. The selection is excellent, and the list well carries out its purpose, which is "to suggest representative books which it is believed are worthy of consideration, and especially to indicate reviews which speak fully of their merits and defects." There is also included a reference-list on "The northern counties of England in literature."

BROOKLINE (Mass.) P. L. Catalogue of English prose fiction in the library, January, 1895, arranged alphabetically by authors and titles, with historical and juvenile books indicated. Brookline, 1895. 298 p. D. [Second edition.]

The main features of this catalog were fully noted in the L. J. for July, 1895 (20:248). In issuing a second edition Mr. Bolton has availed himself of outside suggestion and criticism to make a careful revision of the historical annotations, with other typographical and bibliographical corrections. The result is gratifying, especially in the annotations, which have gained much in consistency and usefulness. The finding-list should not only be welcome aid to Brookline readers, but useful and suggestive to other libraries.

CLEVELAND (O.) P. L. The open shelf: being a list of books added to the library, December, 1895. p. 94-210. O.

Beginning life as a small 16 or 24 page pamphlet, the *Open Shelf* has grown to substantial magazine form. This number is devoted to a subject-list of the accessions (some 400 v.) from October to December, 1895, each title being followed by full and interesting critical or descriptive notes. An author-index is appended.

DES MOINES (Ia.) P. L. Bulletin no. 9 contains a list of the accessions of February, two pages

of comment on new books, and general library notes.

DETROIT (Mich.) P. L. Bulletin no. 7, of books added to the library in 1895. 184 p. O.

This is the second supplement to the general catalog of 1893, and is similar in plan and arrangement to its predecessors. It possesses the qualities of simplicity, method, and handiness that make the Detroit catalogs not only most useful to the library's constituency but valuable models and guides to librarians. An appendix of one page is devoted to "Books in the Dutch language," presented to the library in 1895 by J. B. Nagelvoort, of Detroit.

ENOCH PRATT P. L., Baltimore. [Quarterly] Bulletin, April 1, 1896. 34 p. O.

HAMILTON (Ontario, Can.) P. L. English prose fiction (including translations), arranged numerically, same as indicator. 40 p. O. 5 c.

Besides the main numerical list, includes an alphabetic author-list of additions since June, 1894, and a list of books for young people, arranged numerically.

HELENA (Mont.) P. L. Bulletin 17, April, 1896. p. 261-284.

Contains the 10th annual report of the library, covering the nine months ending Dec. 31, 1895, and a classed list of recent accessions.

NOTTINGHAM (Eng.) F. P. REF. L. Third supplement to class-list no. 3: Science. 16 p.

The OSTERHOUT F. L. (Wilkesbarre, Pa.) Newsletter for April has a pleasantly written article citing some of the best "Books for spring" on gardening, flowers, and kindred subjects.

The OTIS L. (Norwich, Ct.) Bulletin for April concludes the reference-list in elementary physics, begun in the March number.

The PROVIDENCE (R. I.) P. L. Bulletin for March devotes its valuable reference-lists to "Cuba" and "The Torrens system of land registration." The April number has an admirable list on "The Olympic games."

REGLES technique de bibliographie en physiologie adoptées par le congrès international de physiologie (à Rome, 1895). (In Bulletin of the Institut International de Bibliographie for 1895-96, nos. 2-3.)

Reviewed at some length and criticised in the *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen*, April, 1896.

The SALEM (Mass.) P. L. Bulletin for April contains two special reading-lists on "High-school course in English: collateral reading" and "Botany for children." Both these lists have also been reprinted in handy folder form for distribution and reference in the schools.

SOMERVILLE (Mass.) P. L. Bulletin for April has a short reading-list on Patriots' day, April 19.

WALTHAM (Mass.) P. L.' *Bulletin* for March has a special list on music, including books on great composers.

CHANGED TITLES.

"The damnation of Theron Ware," by Harold Frederic, pub. in this country by Stone & Kimball, of Chicago, is published in England by Heinemann, under the title "Illumination."

FULL NAMES.

Anderson, Jerome August (Die Seele);
Ham, C: Herbert (Manual training);
Raines, Cadwell Walton (Bibliography of Texas). C: A. N.

The following are supplied by Harvard College Library.

Colton, Allen Lysander (Sunsets at Mount Hamilton);
Heverly, Clement Ferdinand (History of Monroe township and borough);
Howell, G: Foster (Howell's steam vessels and marine engines);
Hull, W: I: joint author (Bibliography of selected sociological references);
Kneeland, F: Newton (Northampton the Meadow City);
Palmer, Theodore Sherman (The jack rabbits of the United States);
Schweinitz, Emil Alexander de (Chemical examination of cornstalks).

Bibliography.

AERIAL LOCOMOTION. Wouwermans, Armand. Contribution à la bibliographie de la locomotion aérienne. Anvers, De Backer, 1896. 43 p. 4°. 3 fr.

The *Revue Bibliographique Belge* says: "This is in reality an extensive bibliography, comprising German, English, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Netherlandish, Scandinavian, and Russian works on the subject. The record of each work includes the author's name, title, publisher, size, year of edition, number of pages, and price. It is a valuable bibliography to the scientist interested in the interesting and unsolved problem of aerial navigation and it shows patient and conscientious research."

AMERICAN LITERATURE. Matthews, J. Brander. An introduction to the study of American literature. N. Y., Am. Book Co. [1896.] c. 2-256 p. ll. D. \$1.
Bibliographical notes are appended to each chapter.

ARCTIC EXPLORATION. Greely, A. W. Handbook of Arctic discoveries. Bost., Roberts, 1896. c. 10+257 p. por. maps, S. (Columb. knowledge ser. no. 3.) \$1.

A chapter on "Bibliography" gives briefly sources of information on the subject.

ELECTRICITY. Osterberg, Max. Synopsis of current electrical literature. New York, D. Van Nostrand Co., 1896. 13+143 p. O.

In the introduction we are told that this Synopsis is "the first publication of its kind in the English language." It gives the headings and the authors of the most important articles relating to electricity that were published in 59 technical journals in 1895, in the English, French, and German languages. Each title is followed by a few descriptive remarks. The book is based on the monthly synopsis which appeared in *Electric Power* during 1895. There is an alphabetical index of authors, and the titles are classified under a number of convenient headings. Under the headings, however, there is no attempt to arrange in any order, alphabetical or otherwise; and one may be obliged to go through a dozen pages to find the article he wants on any subject. For example, under Biographical, the first subject is George H. Roe; the last, Franklin Leonard Pope. This lack of systematic arrangement is a serious drawback in the use of the book, and it is to be hoped that it will be remedied in future years, for it is of great value to students of electricity.

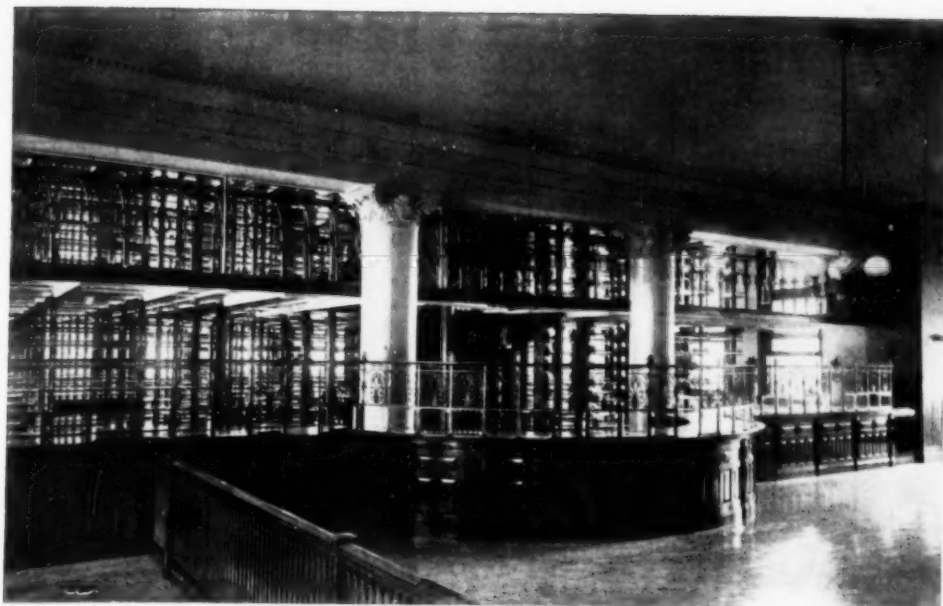
GEOLOGY. In the report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science for 1895, W. Whitaker has contributed the following bibliographies: p. 388-92, Second chronological list of works on the coast-changes and shore-deposits of England and Wales; p. 394-402, Second chronological list of works referring to underground water, England and Wales; p. 674-75, List of the chief papers on the old rocks underground in southeastern England since 1889.

NAVAL ADMINISTRATION. Admiral Sir R. Vesey Hamilton, in his book on "Naval administration" (London: George Bell & Sons), gives a bibliography of the subject (p. 201-207). The major part of the bibliography is composed of parliamentary reports, papers, etc.

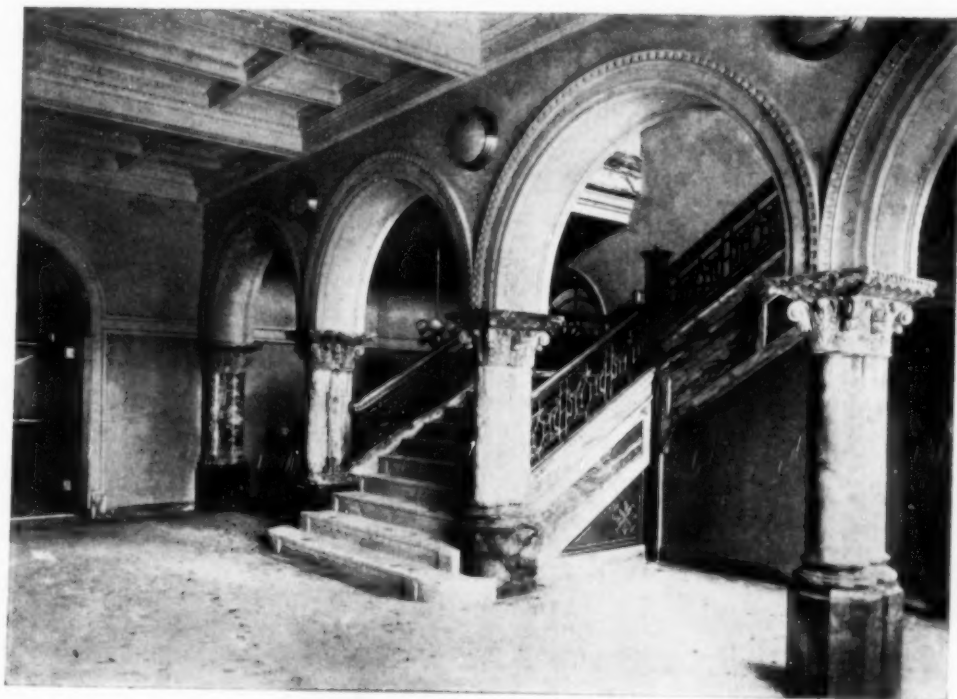
TASSO. The *Revista delle Biblioteche*, of Rome, contained in a recent issue a bibliography of Tasso, containing some 200 titles, compiled by Prof. Angelo Solerti, on the occasion of the third centenary of Tasso's death.

WATER. Warrington, T. C. The composition of water: a short bibliography. (In *Chemical News*, beginning March 20, p. 137, and continued in the issues of March 27, April 2, 10, and 17, concluded.)

These papers, bearing on the determination of the ratio of O: H, are arranged in chronological order under the following heads: 1. Determination of the relative densities of hydrogen and oxygen; 2. Determination of the ratio of the combined volumes of hydrogen and oxygen; 3. Gravimetric methods (a, b, c, d); 4. Critical and miscellaneous.



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